



THE INDEPENDENT

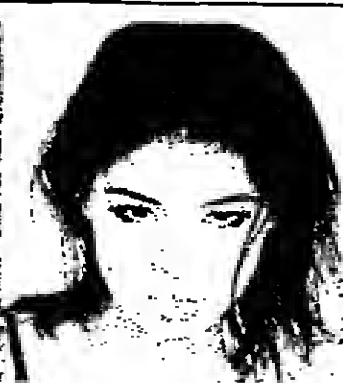
SATURDAY 25 JANUARY 1997

WEATHER: Cloudy

(IR 65P) 60p



Albert Finney
A barrel of bonhomie
The **eye**



Vanessa Mae
The wet-look fiddle chick

THE LONG WEEKEND



Evita
Following the star

THE LONG WEEKEND

World is running out of water

Nicholas Schoon
Environment Correspondent

UN warns of a global crisis as supplies dwindle

Large areas of the globe will start running critically short of water in the next 30 years unless there is a revolution in the way people use this most basic resource, two UN reports warn. Already just over a quarter of the Earth's population face a struggle to obtain enough water to drink, grow food and run industry, say the documents. By 2025, as much as two thirds of the world population would be under stress conditions.

They will face "serious scarcity", with "an urgent need for intensive management of supply and demand". Water shortages will act as a brake on their economic growth. One solution, argue both reports, is for water supply to be devolved down from big gov-

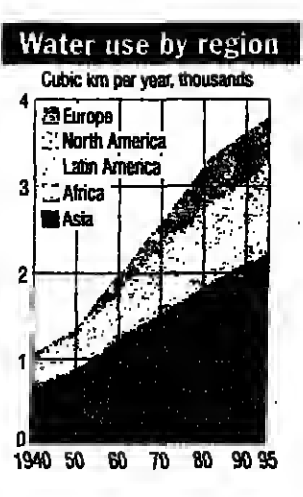
ernment - often responsible for disastrous damming and irrigation schemes - to local communities and private industry. The other is to concentrate on restraining demand and using the resource less wastefully. The two reports, written as a follow up to the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, say that water shortages are as urgent as any other global environmental issue.

With some 300 major river basins crossing national boundaries "future conflicts [over their water] are a potent risk". Among the most likely flash-

points are thought to be the river Jordan, whose waters are shared between Israel and Arab neighbours, the Nile, which flows through Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt, and the headwaters of the Euphrates and Tigris shared between Turkey, Syria and Iraq. A growing number of countries, including India, China, Mexico, the US and some southern ex-USSR republics, are now taking water from underground aquifers at a much faster rate than they can ever be replenished by rain. As a result

water tables have sunk. In some parts of the world, such as Libya, farming and industry have come to depend on underground "fossil" water, which comes from rain which used to fall some of thousands of years ago. Once "mined" it can never be replaced. The reports point out that desalination plants, which take the salt out of seawater, are expensive to build and run and are only an option for wealthy nations like Saudi Arabia. The populations judged most at risk are those in low income

water-hungry cotton is the most important cash crop. The state buys up all the cotton, but it supplies irrigation water to farmers at a heavily subsidised price. Such subsidies, say UN insiders, guarantee the water is used wastefully. But they are found not just in Egypt but in many countries which use extensive irrigation, including the US. Farming consumes most of the water used by humanity, with increases in irrigation largely responsible for the huge increases in crop production needed to feed a fast growing population. As a result, many great rivers no longer reach the sea, and wildlife-rich swamplands have dried out.



Public grilling: A reporter handing milk through Saltwood Castle's portcullis to Jane Clark, wife of Alan Clark (below right), newly selected Conservative parliamentary candidate for Kensington and Chelsea. Photographs: Brian Harris

A Chelsea pensioner and the gentle siege of Saltwood Castle

Clare Garner

The portcullis at the gateway to his country seat may have kept journalists at bay yesterday, but no wooden grating is sufficiently secure to prevent Alan Clark returning to his city seat. For the newly-appointed Kensington and Chelsea candidate for the Tories will soon be dividing his time once again between Saltwood Castle and the House of Commons where many feel he still belongs. The maverick minister and self-confessed philanderer has at last made amends

in buoyant mood after a two-hour hike around his estate. He was greeted with tributes from the Prime Minister downwards. John Major made no secret of his enthusiasm at the prospect of Mr Clark's return to Parliament. "I think Alan Clark is an original and everyone in the House of Commons knows he's an original," he said. "He'll bring a dash of colour. There's a very shrewd, clever, intelligent politician returning to the Commons and of course I welcome that."

Asked if there would be a place for Mr Clark in his Cabinet after the election, the Prime Minister laughed and replied: "I'm not going to carry out my next government reshuffle now, but I'm delighted you acknowledge there's going to be one after the election." Mr Clark said he would fight the election on the basis of the Conservative manifesto. He went on: "My past is an open book. Everyone knows about it, the Conservative Association knew about it, and they still wanted me. Now it is up to the electorate to decide whether they want me as their MP."

A shrewd and clever politician is returning

For what he described as a "colossal mistake" in giving up his Plymouth seat in 1992. As his long-suffering wife, Jane, accepted bouquets and hand-delivered milk from assembled reporters at their historic pad in Kent (all part of the service), Mr Clark breathed a sigh of relief and enjoyed two hours of fresh air. He returned mid-morning.



Tests bring hope for MS victims

Clare Garner

Prospects of helping the 100,000 multiple sclerosis sufferers beat the debilitating disease will increase dramatically next week, with an announcement of the start of clinical trials of a drugs cocktail made with an acid in Diet Coke, vitamins and an anti-depressant. Two hundred MS sufferers have volunteered to take part in the trials for what has been dubbed the Carl Loder Treatment, named after a 35-year-old university lecturer who by accident discovered the "cure".

Scitis Pharmaceuticals is funding six months of trials in five teaching hospitals. It expects to announce results within three years. At present, there are only treatments which modify the symptoms of MS, a progressive illness from which 100,000 Britons suffer. It is just over a year since Ms Loder shocked the nation with her story of how she defied the medical establishment. "One day I had been hardly able to walk without crutches; the next I was able to dance to Top of the Pops," she said of the miraculous event in 1994. More than two years on, she is still taking the cocktail and reports no symptoms of MS.

One of the five neurologists running the trials was bowled over by Ms Loder's tale of dramatic recovery on a television programme and in her book, *Standing in the Sunshine*. "Like most neurologists, I am quite cynical about new treatments as there have been so many before," he said. "She [Ms Loder] is terribly unfair in doctors when she says that nobody's going to take her seriously. It's the treatment we have to take seriously. It's no good to us unless the patients report long-term benefit." The neurologist, who preferred not to be named, has prescribed the ingredients in some of his 700 patients. The results have been "mixed". "My (again) cynical view is that it won't be as good as Carl Loder says. We know that if you give people with MS anti-depressants they feel better and therefore can walk better." Ms Loder said last night: "As far as I'm concerned the medical profession and I are on the same side. We all want the same thing which is to establish the truth about the effectiveness of this treatment." She maintains that it is a "treatment", not a "cure".

An essential guide to safeguard your loved ones

Many people assume that when they die, their wife or husband will automatically inherit all their money and possessions - but this is not always the case. If you are married, your property may not necessarily pass in its entirety to your husband or wife, unless you make a Will leaving him or her everything. If you are unmarried, none of your property will pass to your surviving partner unless you make a Will. If you die without leaving a Will, the law provides that certain relatives, including brothers, sisters, parents, cousins, aunts and uncles might be entitled to your estate. It leaves a horrible mess - at a time when the people you leave behind, and hoped to be able to support, are least able to cope. So, making a Will - and keeping it up to date - is absolutely vital if you want to ensure that the needs of your loved ones are catered for in the event of your death.

importantly explains some of the more confusing jargon associated with Wills and bequests. It also describes how you can go about making a bequest to charity - in particular WWF-UK. Remember, having an out-of-date Will is little better than having no Will at all. This free booklet is essential reading if you care about your family and friends - it's also important for your own peace of mind. When you marry, any Will you made previously, may become null and void. If you divorce, any provision made for your previous spouse is cancelled. The birth of a child or a death in the family could mean you should amend an existing Will. A significant increase or reduction in the value of your personal assets could require an amendment to any existing Will. If you die without leaving a Will and you have no relatives, your entire estate will go to the government. So, for your free Guide to Will making please call 01483 426445 or write to Sally Burrows, Legacies Officer, WWF-UK, FREEPOST, Panda House, Godalming Surrey GU7 1BR. Please also remember to quote reference JN24

Send for your free guide

WWF-UK have published a free guide to Will making which outlines, clearly, the issues you need to hear in mind when preparing a Will and

QUICKLY

Light on Uday plot
The gunmen who badly wounded Uday, Saddam Hussein's son, learned of his whereabouts through his best friend, it emerged yesterday, confirming *The Independent's* revelation about those involved in the assassination plot. Page 17

CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| <i>The Broadsheet</i> | |
| Business & City | 22-23 |
| Comment | 17-19 |
| Gazette | 18 |
| Foreign News | 12-17 |
| Home News | 2-10 |
| Leading articles/letters | 19 |
| Obituaries | 18 |
| Sport | 26-32 |
| <i>The Long Weekend</i> | |
| Arts | 4-5 |
| Books | 6-8 |
| Country | 16 |
| Games | 2 |
| Gardening | 17 |
| Money | 24-30 |
| Shopping | 18-20 |
| Travel | 9-15 |
| TV & Radio | 31-32 |



9 770951 946368

20%
WHEN YOU
CALL MERCURY
SMARTCALL

news

significant shorts

Traffic Bill clears crucial hurdle in Commons

Proposed new laws to cut road traffic in Britain's towns and cities cleared a crucial hurdle yesterday. The Private Member's Bill introduced by the Liberal Democrat MP Don Foster won an unopposed Second Reading in the Commons.

If it became law, the bill would compel local councils to draw up targets for reducing traffic, or to curb the extensive growth in traffic which is expected across the country over the next 30 years.

The measure was welcomed by the transport minister John Watts but even with his backing it will struggle to pass through both chambers before the election. The bill is backed by the Green Party, Plaid Cymru and Friends of the Earth.

The bill could help cut congestion, pollution, noise and the consequent stress and damage to health. Mr Foster said: "If we can do something about these problems we can save lives, improve the environment and save billions of pounds for the nation," he said.

A CBI statement warned there were "major flaws" in the bill. It was unrealistic unless more money was invested in the transport network and inflexible because it imposed statutory traffic targets.

Fields of history, page 5 Nicholas Schoon

Britons charged over huge drugs ring

Seven Britons, alleged to have helped organise a £100m racket to market heroin, cocaine, ecstasy and hashish across Europe, were yesterday remanded in custody by a Dutch court. They were arrested last October when Dutch police seized £75m-worth of cocaine stashed inside aluminium ingots. They will face separate trials on 9 and 10 April.

The defendants include a Liverpool man, Curtis Warren, 32, once dubbed "Target One" by Interpol. Also in the dock is Stephen Mee, 38, from Liverpool, who is wanted in Britain and a third defendant, Ray Nolan, 28, who is also sought by British police.

The other British defendants who will stand trial in April are John Farrell, 34, from Manchester, Stephen Whitehead from Oldham, also 34, William Fitzgerald, 55, from Liverpool, and 47-year-old William Riley.

Walkway on site of West house

The site of 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, home of the serial killers Rosemary and Fred West, is to become a landscaped walkway. Gloucester City Council has decided on the plan after months of public consultation. The process involved interviews with victims' relatives and local residents in Cromwell Street, neighbouring Wellington Street and St Michael's Square.

Victory for Barclay twins

The millionaire twins, David and Frederick Barclay, have won an appeal in a French court for "public slander" damages against the *Observer* journalist John Sweeney arising out of a British radio broadcast last July.

A court in Rennes ordered Mr Sweeney to pay damages of £2,200 to the twins after being judged to have acted "in bad faith" towards the Barclays during a BBC Radio Guernsey interview. The BBC and John Birt, its director general, were cleared of all blame.

Care around-the-clock

Britain's first 24-hour nursery is to open after a flood of inquiries from parents who work night shifts. The nursery in Goldthorn Hill, Wolverhampton, plans to make the move at the end of March.

"We have had quite a few inquiries and we're going to give it a go and see what the uptake is," said Muriel Williams, the nursery's director. "It's basically for people who work nights, like nurses and residential home workers."



Hunt for killer of girl, 2

Detectives yesterday launched a murder inquiry following the discovery of the body of a two-and-a-half-year-old girl.

Police said a post mortem examination was carried out on the youngster who was found dead at her home in the Meadows area of Nottingham yesterday.

Three adults are currently helping police with their inquiries but police have revealed no further details of the discovery of the body or whether the people being questioned are related to the child.

Boy attacked by gang at school

A 14-year-old boy was seriously ill in hospital last night after he was attacked at school with an iron bar or machete. The youth was set upon by a gang of four or five people at Kidbrooke School in Eltham, south-east London, as children were making their way home. He suffered head injuries and was taken to the Royal London Hospital in east London where his condition was serious.

Earlier in the day, a teacher at King Edward VII school in Sheffield was threatened with a silver pistol when he asked three youths who were not pupils at the school to leave.

Louise Jury

people



Peter Graf outside court yesterday and (right) his daughter Steffi

Steffi distances herself from sins of the father

Steffi Graf's father was sentenced to jail for three years yesterday for tax evasion, but the judge declared the tennis star innocent. A court in Mannheim, southern Germany, ruled that "no active participation by Steffi Graf" in the withholding of DM19.2m (£7.1m) from the state could be established.

Although the public prosecutor is appealing against the sentence, the verdict is likely to remain unchallenged, ending the tennis star's two-year ordeal. Peter Graf was given a total of three years and nine months.

In practice, Graf's incarceration is likely to be a great deal shorter, and more comfortable, than the 16 months he had spent

in custody before being released on bail last year. Taking that into consideration, he will be up for parole in just over seven months.

He can expect leniency from a court deeply impressed with his reforming ways. Graf, aged 58, has given up drink and drugs, and is no longer consorting with prostitutes.

He was not really an evil man, the judges conceded, but more of an imbecile. "Graf did not want to delegate," said Joachim Plass, the judge. "He wanted to keep things in his own hands. He wanted to be better than renowned experts."

That he wasn't is obvious from his hare-brained schemes to hide Ms Graf's earnings by stuffing

them in bags and sending them on a tour of exotic off-shore destinations. His companies in the Netherlands and the Dutch Antilles were transparent tax-dodges.

His debt to society should be cleared by the end of the year, but on the personal front further strife lies ahead. Ms Graf, who used to be inseparable from her father-cum-coach-cum-manager, appears to have little desire for a reunion. Yesterday she heard the news in Melbourne, where she had been convalescing from injury, and boarded the first aircraft heading for Tokyo. Germany may be prepared to forgive the sins of the father, but his family will not.

Inna Karacs

Bereaved family to sue suspect

The family of a young doctor strangled more than two years ago are taking the rare legal step of suing her suspected murderer for damages.

Lawyers for the family of Joan Francisco hope that the claim, for the assault and battery that led to her death, will result in a finding by a civil court that Tony Diedrick, the suspect, committed the killing.

The action is being brought by Dr Francisco's sisters, Margaret and Celia, following a decision by the Crown Prosecution Service that there was insufficient evidence for a prosecution.

Dr Francisco, a 27-year-old gynaecologist and obstetrician, was found strangled in her flat in north London, on Boxing Day 1994.

A police inquiry revealed that she had been the victim of a stalker, but the inquiry was hampered by the lack of a witness and forensic evidence.

Karen Thatcher, the family's solicitor,



Joan Francisco: Civil suit could net £50,000

said: "We hope that during the course of these proceedings more evidence may emerge which will result in the CPS reviewing the case." In contrast to a criminal prosecution where an accused can remain silent, Mr Diedrick, 37, from Maida Vale, north-west London, has little option but to mount a defence and give evidence. The damages claim could be worth up to £50,000.

Patricia Wynn Davies

Worsthorne set to return

Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, who was sacked from the *Sunday Telegraph* earlier this month after 44 years at *Telegraph* newspapers, is to transfer his talents to the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Spectator*.

The action follows concern expressed by Conrad Black, the owner of all three, after 73-year-old Mr Worsthorne was dropped from his column without warning by the editor, Dominic Lawson, who wanted a new writer. "Dominic simply came back and said he didn't want me," Sir Peregrine reported after he opened his letter of dismissal. "I am appalled."

He is now to pen a monthly "Peregrine Worsthorne Essay" in the *Daily Telegraph* and will also write a bi-monthly column for *The Spectator*.

Yesterday the magazine's editor, Frank Johnson, rejected suggestions that the jobs had been given to the veteran former editor under pressure from his proprietor.

"Not at all. It would have happened anyway," he said.

briefing

ENERGY

Waste of power prompts campaign for efficiency

Each British household wastes £278 a year by failing to install energy saving measures and appliances, according to a study yesterday. The results, released to coincide with a £4m television and press advertising campaign called Energy Efficiency, mean a total of £6.5bn is thrown away annually.

The initiative brings together manufacturers, retailers, builders, merchants, installers, and trade and consumer groups under the direction of the independent government-funded Energy Saving Trust. A special logo will be used whenever consumers must make an energy-using decision, such as new heating or loft insulation, to indicate energy efficient and technologically advanced products.

Energy Saving Trust chief executive Dr Eoin Lees said: "Consumers found the subject of energy efficiency confusing and wanted a truly independent signposting scheme to help them make their purchasing decisions."

"Anyone buying a product, service or measure where they see the Energy Efficiency symbol can be confident that it will incorporate the latest technology, enabling them to save money on their energy bills."

For more information you can call the campaign hotline on 0345 377 200 or write to Energy Efficiency, c/o Intelmark, Aylesbury Rd, Thame, Oxon, OX3 3PG

Glenda Cooper

PRIVATISATION

Tarmac pays back £22m on sell-off

The building firm Tarmac Construction is to pay the Government more than £22m in an adjustment after the privatisation of PSA Projects. The Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, said in a Commons written reply that the payment comprised £19,921,177 plus interest.

PSA Projects provided design and project management for major government construction schemes.

Mr Gummer said that when PSA was sold in December 1992, Tarmac was paid £49.6m as compensation for future losses and commercial risk, and to provide funds for a pension fund contribution, investment and working capital. His department retained £55m of pre-sale trade debts which were all collected. In addition to the payment of £49.6m, Tarmac received £10.5m for net liabilities transferred with PSA Projects.

He said that under the terms of the sale, this sum was subject to adjustment following details of PSA Projects' net asset position at the point of sale. Mr Gummer said an independent expert had now reported on the asset position and calculated the payment due.

EDUCATION

Museums miss out on teaching

Two-thirds of all museums in Britain make little or no special provision for education and fewer than a quarter employ an education specialist, according to a government-commissioned report published yesterday.

The study, *A Common Wealth: Museums and Learning in the United Kingdom*, reveals that the UK's 1,700 registered museums could do much more to develop their educational work, even though many have made efforts to enhance their provision over the last decade.

David Anderson, author of the report and head of education at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, proposes National Lottery money should be used to fund the development of museum education. The study, commissioned by the Department of National Heritage, also says each museum should employ a specialist educator, and recommends the establishment of a parliamentary standing committee on museum education.

A Common Wealth, free, Department of National Heritage Public Inquiry Point, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London, SW1Y 5DH. Lucy Ward

FOOD

| Should genetically modified food be developed? | | | | Would you eat it? | | | |
|--|-----|----|------------|-------------------|-----|----|------------|
| | Yes | No | Don't know | | Yes | No | Don't know |
| Denmark | 16 | 65 | 20 | Denmark | 22 | 63 | 15 |
| France | 15 | 66 | 20 | France | 12 | 76 | 12 |
| GB | 31 | 51 | 18 | GB | 28 | 53 | 19 |
| Italy | 37 | 44 | 20 | Italy | 19 | 65 | 16 |
| Netherlands | 18 | 49 | 33 | Netherlands | 8 | 65 | 27 |
| Sweden | 12 | 76 | 12 | Sweden | 14 | 78 | 8 |
| Average | 22 | 59 | 20 | Average | 17 | 67 | 18 |

Europeans reject genetic products

Consumers around Europe are strongly opposed to genetically modified foods and want clear labelling to identify them, according to two surveys.

Nearly 5,000 people in six different countries were interviewed for a MORI/Greenpeace poll about whether they support the development of genetically modified food and if they would eat it. Across Europe, 59 per cent were opposed to its development with the French and the Danes coming out most strongly. The Swedes were least likely to eat genetically engineered food.

The British showed some of the most positive attitudes with only 51 per cent of consumers opposing development. It was also the country found to be most happy to eat transgenic food. A recent campaign by Greenpeace was aimed at preventing genetically-engineered soya from entering Britain at Liverpool.

A separate survey in Germany found that 95 per cent of consumers wanted mandatory labelling of these foods.

GMF Marketing Intelligence is published biweekly by Genetic ID, 500 North Third Street Suite 208, Fairfield Iowa 52556 United States.

Glenda Cooper



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

Early birds catch the best offers

Save up to £168

If you're planning a Winter, Spring, Summer or Autumn break by car to the Continent or Ireland, make sure you take advantage of our early booking offers. Simply book and pay for your ticket in advance to enjoy massive savings on our normal return fares.

To book call **0990 70 70 70**
or see your local travel agent.

| To | Early booking offer | Book and pay by | Save up to |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|------------|
| FRANCE: Dover - Calais Newhaven - Dieppe | £98 | 28 February | £168 |
| HOLLAND: Harwich - Hook of Holland | From £98 | 28 February | £102 |
| IRELAND: Fishguard - Rosslare | 20% off | 31 January | £87 |

Discounts apply to all UK car hire firms. The full terms and conditions of carriage are available from the local travel agent. *Standard car hire only.

Stena Line

The next generation of ferry company.

مكتبة الامم

Baby milk linked to salmonella

Parents swamp help line after team at laboratory finds rare strain of bacterium

Michael Streeter

Thousands of worried parents called a special helpline yesterday after a popular brand of baby-milk powder was linked with a rare form of salmonella.

Packets of Milupa's Milumil for Hungrier Babies, which is fed to around 25,000 infants in the United Kingdom, were cleared from supermarkets, corner shops and chemists after the Department of Health issued an urgent food-hazard warning.

The company, which is now owned by the Dutch Nutricia firm, stopped production of the brand at its factory in Colmar, France, which exports the powder solely to the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic.

Helen Messenger, the corporate affairs manager for Milupa, said that the 45 lines to their help centre in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, were constantly in use from parents. "We've had a few thousands calls so far," she said. The company said it had been co-operating fully with the Department of Health after being notified of the problem on Thursday and was launching its own investigation to see where any infection may have started.

Dennis Segal, the managing director, said: "The company would like to stress that its rigorous testing procedures at the factory have never shown the slightest sign of contamination."

Parents have been told not to use any of the powdered milk, which comes in 450g and 900g packets, and to throw away any old scoops used in preparing the milk.

The Department of Health has also urged anyone anxious about the health of their child after using the powder, and who may have symptoms of a gastric infection, to contact a health visitor or their GP.

Of the 12 children in Scotland, Yorkshire, the Midlands and the south-east who suffered from the rare salmonella anatum infection between last October and earlier this month, two were taken to hospital and only one was detained. All the infants, most of whom are aged under six months, have now recovered.

The potential link with the milk powder was discovered by scientists at the Public Health Laboratory Service. This form of salmonella normally only occurs in adult cases about 50 times a year.

Examining the 12 cases against a control group of well children, scientists found that at least 10 of those ill had used Milumil, against just three or four in the control group.

At a Whitehall press conference yesterday the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Kenneth Calman, said: "The evidence was sufficiently strong in relation to this particularly vulnerable group - infants under six months - for us to withdraw the product." The Public Health Laboratory Service will continue to search for any actual trace of the infection in the powder.

A spokeswoman for the Public Health Laboratory Service said the advice to parents was to be vigilant, but not to panic. Though the strain of salmonella was rare, it was not one of the most dangerous.

The powder is sold under the name Milumil for Hungrier Bottle-Fed Babies, a casein or curd-based milk substitute.

The product has around 5 per cent of the market, with sales between £6m and £7m a year.

Milupa has a 9.5 per cent share of the overall UK milk-powder market.

Yesterday's scare was seized on by critics of the milk-powder industry in the UK.

Patricia Randall, the international co-ordinator of Baby Milk Action, wants Britain



Cathy Eastwood and Alexander, her six-month-old son, at her west London home with a packet of Milumil, the preparation which is involved in the scare

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Mother's breast versus manufacturer's bottle - nature knows best, say doctors



The benefits of breast-milk over artificial feeds are indisputable - and widely acknowledged by the manufacturers of infant formula:

■ Human breast-milk and formula feeds both contain essential nutrients in similar proportions. But breast-milk supplies these

nutrients in a blend which is perfect for a human child.

■ Breast-milk contains important antibodies and white blood cells which protect an infant from infection, particularly while its own immune system is immature.

■ Doctors, midwives and health visitors advise against bottle-

feeding except when the mother finds herself unable to breast-feed, or if she does not produce enough milk.

■ However, the medical profession reassures mothers that they should not regard themselves as failures if they do not breast-feed.

The company involved and the DoH have acted quickly

Rosemary Dodds, policy research officer at the National Childbirth Trust, said the scare would add to parents' concerns over using powdered baby milk, particularly in view of recent questions raised over the presence of phthalates in some brands.

Ms Dodds also said it showed it was time for large baby-food manufacturers to start switching resources away from "inappropriate marketing" policies to encourage women in the Third World to use powdered milk, towards better quality control.

Ms Dodds added that Milupa had been criticised in a recent report by the International Formula Monitoring Group for adopting bad practices in relation to marketing its formulas, particularly in Poland.

A spokeswoman for the Royal College of Nursing praised the Department of Health's handling of the scare.

"On this occasion, both the company involved and the DoH seem to have acted quickly to make sure that health professionals have the information they need so that parents know what action to take."

There was a big scare in May last year when nine brands of infant feed tested by the Ministry of Agriculture were found to contain phthalates.

These are chemicals used in plastics and packaging and which in animal tests have been found to reduce fertility. The helpline number is 0345 623600.

Tory moderates pour scorn on breakaway party claim

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

Revived reports that up to 40 Conservative MPs are plotting to break away, form a new party, and back a Blair government on Europe, were roundly repudiated last night.

While moderate Tory sources did not want to be identified, likely suspects told *The Independent* that it would be foolish to give up the fight for the soul of the Conservative Party, even if a right-winger such as Michael Portillo succeeded John Major as leader of the Opposition in the Commons.

The one certainty shared by Conservative MPs from the left and right of the party this week was that Mr Major is "heading for a stunning defeat" in the general election.

There is also a well-founded suspicion on the Tory right that there could be as many as 20 Conservative MPs in the new Parliament who would indeed support Tony Blair in Commons votes on European issues - as Labour MPs backed the Heath government on Europe in 1972. For the moment, they draw the line at that, and no Conservative MP yesterday recognised the name of the conspiracy party, the European Democrats, let alone speculation that Michael Heseltine or Kenneth Clarke might lead them into political wilderness.

A large-scale political realignment, with the right of



the Labour Party joining forces with the Tory left and Paddy Ashdown's Liberal Democrats to form a new centre-ground party would, however, be a more attractive prospect. There is no question of that happening, if Labour wins the election. However, a fifth Labour defeat would be so traumatic that anything could happen.

Yesterday's reports - in the *Mail* and *Sun* - were built on the assumption of a Labour win and a Portillo takeover of the Tories. "Astonishing", "ludicrous",

"garbage" were some of the gentlest responses from those who would know if there was a plot taking place. Certainly, the Tory moderates, or "wets" as they were so scornfully dubbed by Margaret Thatcher, would hope that Mr Clarke or Mr Heseltine would lead the resistance against a Tory lurch to the right. "But we would not give up the fight so easily," they saw no reason why they should leave their party, "gift-wrapped" for Portillo, Redwood or Howard.

SPECIAL NATIONAL PREVIEWS TO THE 'FILM OF THE YEAR'

Shine



SUNDAY EVENING 26 JANUARY

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| CINEMAX WAKEFIELD | SHOWCASE BRISTOL | UCI PORTSMOUTH | VIRGIN STOCKPORT |
| CINEMAX STEVENAGE | SHOWCASE COVENTRY | UCI PRESTON | VIRGIN SWINDON |
| ODEON BOURNEMOUTH | SHOWCASE GLASGOW | UCI SHEFFIELD | WARNER ACTON |
| ODEON BIRMINGHAM | SHOWCASE LEEDS | UCI SUTTON | WARNER BASKINGSTON |
| ODEON BROMBOROUGH | SHOWCASE MANCHESTER | UCI SWANSEA | WARNER BURY |
| ODEON CAP CARDIFF | SHOWCASE NOTTINGHAM | UCI THURROCK | WARNER CROYDON |
| ODEON HENEL HEMPSTEAD | SHOWCASE READING | VIRGIN BEDFORD | WARNER DAGENHAM |
| ODEON LIVERPOOL | SHOWCASE STOCKTON | VIRGIN BIRMINGHAM | WARNER FINCHLEY |
| ODEON NOTTINGHAM | UCI BRACKNELL | VIRGIN CHESTER | WARNER HARRLOW |
| ODEON PLYMOUTH | UCI EDINBURGH | VIRGIN GLOUCESTER | WARNER LEICESTER |
| ODEON SHEFFIELD | UCI LEE VALLEY | VIRGIN NORTHAMPTON | WARNER NEWCASTLE |
| ODEON STOKE | UCI GATESHEAD | VIRGIN SLough | WARNER NEWCASTLE |
| ODEON TRUXTON | UCI HIGH WYCOMBE | VIRGIN STAPLES CORNER | WARNER NEWCASTLE |
| ODEON WIMBORNE | UCI MILTON KEYNES | | WARNER YORK |
| SHOWCASE BIRMINGHAM | UCI POOLE | | |

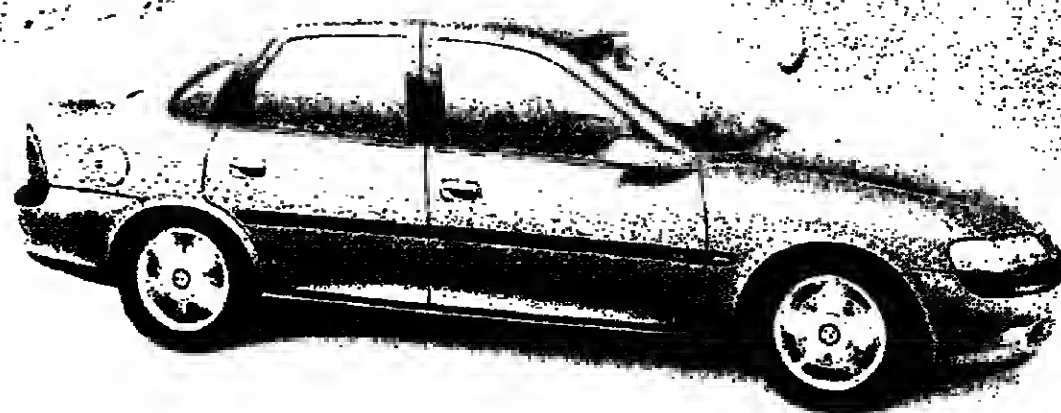
STARTS AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FROM FRIDAY JANUARY 31

NEWSPAPERS
SUPPORT RECYCLING
Newspapers made up 41.2% of the UK's waste in 1995


offers

tena Line

ANNOUNCING A MAJOR TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE IN AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING
A SEE THROUGH WINDSCREEN



THIS COULD SPELL THE END FOR THAT OTHER GREAT INVENTION.
The dirty old rag. Because in winter, Vectras fitted with air conditioning or climate control systems wipe out steam and condensation. They work by dehumidifying the air (hot or cold) inside the car, so your windows can do the job they were designed for; to let you see out. And this very efficient system, by the way, proves to be just as valuable by keeping you cool in the stifling heat of the summer. Just call 0800 455 466 if you'd like anything else about the Vectra made crystal clear.

THE VECTRA FROM VAUXHALL 

AIR CONDITIONING IS AVAILABLE AS STANDARD AT ENTRY TRIM LEVEL ON THE VECTRA RANGE (EXCEPT EXPRESSION). ELECTRONIC CLIMATE CONTROL STANDARD ON COX ONLY. WWW.VAUXHALL.CO.UK

صكنا من الامل

Battle
on p
a pub
camp is d

PEN

PRICE

Battles renewed on the fields of history

Honiton protesters on pub break as camp is destroyed

Ian Burrell

After spending two-and-a-half years creating an elaborate network of underground tunnels and tree-top houses, one of Britain's bardiest groups of anti-road protesters was undone by the lure of the local pub.

While the demonstrators were sipping a beer after the arrival of their benefit payments, a small army of contractors was systematically dismantling the Fairmile camp on the A30, near Exeter.

A handful of protesters were yesterday holding out against eviction in underground tunnels, as Trevor Coleman, the Devon under-sheriff, called a press conference at the camp to herald the success of his military-style operation.

"Catching them by surprise has been an enormous advantage," he said. "There were very few in the camp - they were, I believe, down the pub. We found on-site only 20 or 30 people - it was an enormous advantage."

He said that clearing the last protesters from the Fairmile site - the third and last camp blocking the road - might take three days. Fifteen protesters left the site or were evicted during the night and seven others were arrested.

As Mr Coleman spoke, a team of 48 specialist contractors continued efforts to remove five protesters from a network of tunnels and about 15 to 20 more from a dozen tree houses where they had stayed overnight.

The site was cordoned off and today 120 security guards and more than 100 extra police moved in.

The key to the underground eviction operation was the main tunnel, which the experts would not be able to inspect until it had been shored up, said Mr Coleman.

"We understand the tunnels are not well shored," he said. "We are proceeding slowly and carefully because we want to make sure the protesters are safe."

Earlier, Mr Coleman said the operation involved Britain's first major tunnelling eviction. Air had been supplied to those underground, said Mr Coleman, who added: "As far as we know they are fine."

Ground radar was being used to survey the tunnels and tunnelling experts were linked by video to colleagues on the surface.

Mr Coleman said the timing of the operation had taken the protesters "totally by surprise".

"They are demoralised," he said. "We have caught them three times now - I call that a hat-trick."

He was referring to the nine-hour clearance of the nearby Troilheim camp on 12 January and the swift removal of a handful of protesters from the Allercombe camp a few miles away on 27 December.

As climbing specialists began scaling the first three 100ft beech trees on the site and began demolishing "twiglo" dwellings, two protesters clambered into the topmost branches.

The first protester, named as Tom, to be brought down on rope was arrested for obstruction and led away in handcuffs.

In another of the trees, protester Kate provoked laughter all round as she tried to put off one of the climbing contractors by tickling him as he scaled the branches.

The three camps were built over a two-and-a-half year period to oppose a 13-mile road improvement scheme between Exeter and Honiton in Devon.

The scheme is part of a 65-mile improvement of the A30 and A35 between Exeter and Bere Regis, Dorset.

The protesters say the road will destroy ancient trees and animal habitats, blight the countryside and increase air and noise pollution.

Protester Ed admitted yesterday: "Some of us were caught by surprise - I was in the pub myself with three others, and others had left previously."

Asked whether the under-sheriff's tactic had worked, he said: "It did make a bit of difference."



Down to earth: A climbing contractor removing a protester from the tree-tops. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Tewkesbury torn between homes and its heritage

Stephen Goodwin
Heritage Correspondent

Fields on which Edward IV routed the Lancastrians at the Battle of Tewkesbury in one of the decisive engagements of the Wars of the Roses could soon disappear under a rash of executive homes.

Opposition to a plan to build 77 houses on what experts believe to be the epicentre of the battle on 4 May 1471 is gathering force, marshalled by 15th-century re-enactment groups.

Tewkesbury Borough Council is in the dilemma of following its plan, which earmarks the Gastons area for housing, or acknowledging the significance of the battlefield in attracting visitors to the Gloucestershire town, which each summer is the venue for one of the biggest medieval festivals, when the battle is re-enacted.

David Cuhagge, of the Companions of the Black Bear, the organisers of the festival, said: "We know you cannot preserve everything, but the battlefield has already been eroded by housing. What is left was the centre of the action."

Tewkesbury was a crushing defeat for the Lancastrians under Margaret of Anjou. The place where many of her fleeing soldiers were slaughtered by the Yorkists is still known as Bloody Meadow (not part of the building site). The 17-year-old Lancastrian Prince Edward was killed, Queen Margaret was imprisoned and her husband, Henry VI, executed.

One of her commanders, Lord Wenlock, suffered a grislier end. According to one chronicler, the retreating Duke of Somerset denounced Wenlock as a traitor, took up his axe and "strake y braynes out of his hedde".

Bryant Homes Mercia Ltd, of Droitwich, want to build the houses on land owned by the Tewkesbury Grammar School Trust. Most would be three-bedroom detached houses.

English Heritage may join the re-enactment groups and residents in opposing the planning application.

The site is included on English Heritage's Battlefield Register, which, although it has no statutory backing, stresses the importance of their preservation - not least as the last resting place of thousands of unknown soldiers, nobles and commoners alike.

"If, as Winston Churchill wrote, battles are 'the punctuation marks of history', then battlefields are the fragmentary pages on which those punctuation marks were written in blood," states the register.

Objections are pouring in to the planning office at Tewkesbury and councillors are not expected to consider the application until March.



Bloody end: The death of Prince Edward at Tewkesbury

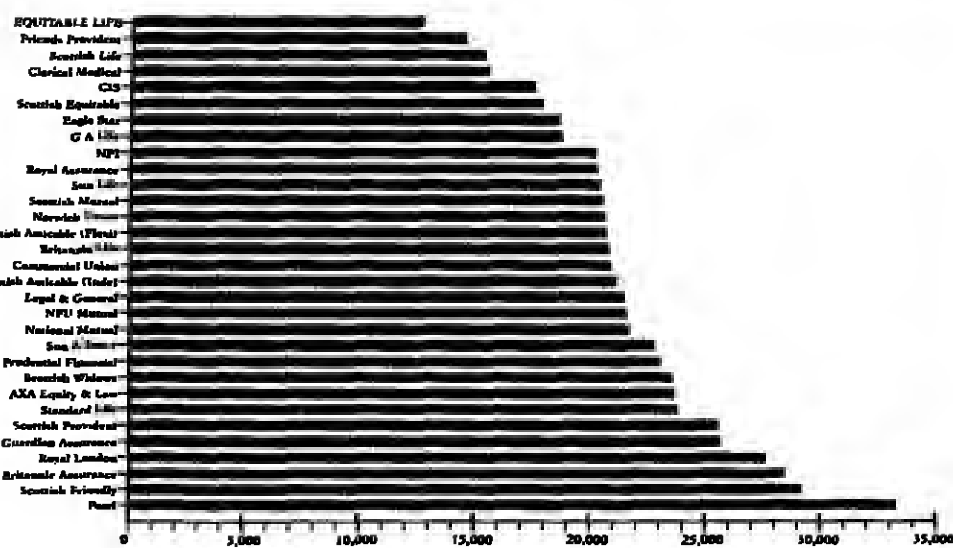
Bryant Homes said it was working with the council to "preserve the history of the site".

An interpretation centre would be provided at the company's expense, including a "battle trail", and an archaeological investigation would be carried out.

But such palliatives are unlikely to have much effect. Kay Rouse, of the Medieval Siege Society, said a piece of the real history of England would be lost - "not a stately home you pay £10 to get in to but the history of the English people. And to add insult to injury, they'll probably give us an Anjou Close."

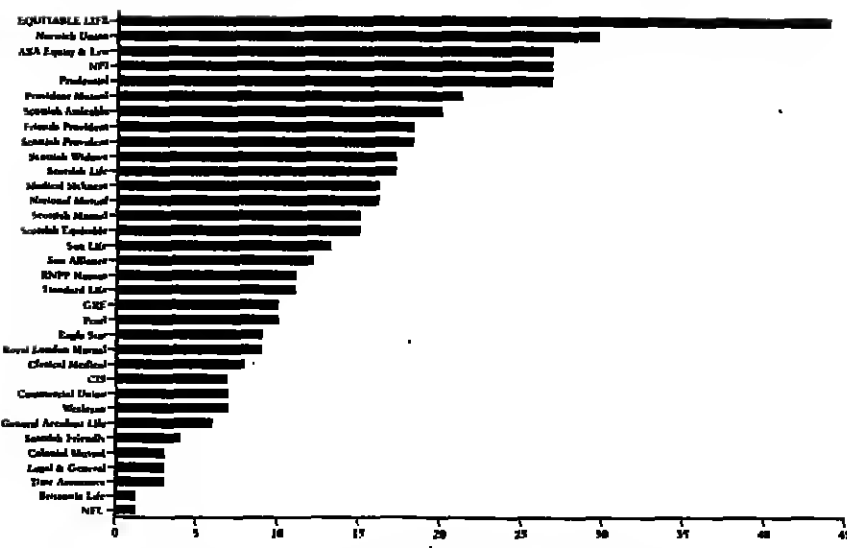
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BUY A PENSION, MAKE SURE IT'S ONE OF THE BEST ON THE MARKET.

HOW MUCH YOU ARE CHARGED



The effect of charges (£)

INVESTMENT TRACK RECORD



No. of Top Ten Appearances 1974-1996

Source: Planned Savings surveys of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans, 1974-1996

Choosing a personal pension plan is not an easy task. Superficially, many plans can look similar, so what factors should you consider when making your choice?

Price, performance and flexibility are perhaps the key indicators that will enable you to differentiate the wheat from the chaff.

PRICE

All companies are now required to disclose to potential buyers the cost of investments such as personal pension plans. Comparing the charges made by different companies can be quite revealing.

The chart above left compares the effect of the charges made by various companies to recoup such costs as commission, remuneration and administration for a £200 pm, 20 year regular contribution with-

profits personal pension plan. Source: Money Management, October 1996.

Not only are the effects of The Equitable's charges the lowest of the companies surveyed, but also the effects of our charges are almost half the average.

PERFORMANCE

For more than 20 years the industry journal, Planned Savings, has monitored the investment performance of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans maturing over different time periods.

Of the 52 performance tables published since surveys began in 1974, The Equitable has appeared in the top ten on no less than 43 occasions.

That consistency of performance covering two decades is unmatched by any other company.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

FLEXIBILITY

With an Equitable Personal Pension Plan you may vary your contributions without penalty. If you have to stop paying contributions your existing benefits are unaffected. So we don't tie you to specific contributions and provided the minimum contribution is made you may invest what you want when you want. Additionally, if you retire earlier or later than planned, there's no penalty. Your benefits will be the same as if you had chosen that date at the outset.

So, if you would like to learn more about The Equitable Personal Pension Plan by post and by telephone, return the coupon or call (0990) 38 48 58.

www.equitable.co.uk

INFORMATION SERVICE WILL ONLY BE GIVEN ON EQUITABLE GROUP PRODUCTS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL PENSION AUTHORITY THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BEDS HP21 7BR. To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Beds HP21 7BR.

I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans.

I am self employed ☐

I am an employee not in a company pension scheme ☐

INCM7A

NAME (Mr/Ms/Miss) _____

ADDRESS _____

Postcode _____

Tel. (Office) _____ Tel. (Home) _____

We guarantee that no company outside The Equitable and its subsidiaries will receive these details. If, however, you would prefer to receive no further information from us, please tick this box ☐



The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

news

Research funds go to elite colleges

Judith Judd
Education Editor

Elite universities in Britain are moving closer to an American-style Ivy League, after government advisers decided to give them their biggest ever share of research funds.

In the United States, the Ivy League colleges receive proportionally far more research money than less prestigious institutions.

Leaders of the quango which distributes university funds in the UK have agreed that departments awarded top ratings of five or five stars in last month's research assessment will receive three or four times as much money as those rated average.

Grade one/two departments, concentrated in the former polytechnics, will receive none of the £680m research funding. Four years ago only departments rated one received nothing.

Alice Frost, policy analyst at the Higher Education Funding Council, which distributes the money said: "It is more selective because more money is going to top-rated departments... we think it recognises world class excellence."

Only 20 universities have 10 or more five or five star departments - those with research of world class standard. The list includes Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Bristol, Sheffield, Birmingham, Manchester and Imperial College.

More departments have been rated five and five star this time than in 1992. To ensure that those in these departments receive the same level of funding as before, the amount of

money for less successful departments has been squeezed.

Some former polytechnics, such as Staffordshire, de Montfort and Liverpool John Moores, have a comparatively high number of departments rated too. These departments will be eligible for money from a special fund but the amounts involved are expected to be small.

Ms Frost said the former polytechnics would get more money overall because there ratings had improved but the gap between the top and the bottom would be wider. The same was true of the older institutions.

The exercise has brought to the fore the old rivalry between Oxford and Cambridge. Oxford may benefit most because it has a higher proportion of five star departments than Cambridge. Oxford chose to enter a small proportion of its academics than some other top universities such as Cambridge, the London School of Economics and Warwick in the hope that it would achieve higher ratings.

A spokesman for the Committee of Vice-Chancellors said: "It is a pity that there is not enough money to bring on more people in research but, if we have to be selective, it is better to concentrate the money than spreading it more evenly."

A spokesman for de Montfort University said that it was pleased with its progress in the research ratings. "We want to compete on equal terms with everyone else, though it would be nice if we had research funding for 35 or 40 years like some of the universities we are competing with."



Helping hand: Labour social security spokeswoman Harriet Harman at a residential home in west London yesterday. Photograph: Andrew Burman

Lone parent plan stolen, say Tories

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

The Prime Minister yesterday accused Tony Blair of adopting copycat tactics and "jackdaw tendencies", picking up Tory-style plans to encourage lone parents to move from welfare to work.

Well before the Labour leader had even left Britain for Amsterdam, where he was due to make a speech last night on "The 21st Century Welfare State", the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats moved in to mock Mr Blair's pledges.

Mr Major said in his Huntingdon constituency: "From

what I know of what he plans to say, the policy of after-school clubs for children has been our policy for some time, and we have devoted many tens of millions of pounds to it..."

"I'm afraid this is another example of the jackdaw tendency in the Labour Party - that if we leave a good policy lying about they will certainly scoop it up, shine it brightly and claim it as another brand new policy for themselves."

Mr Blair was outlining a strategy to get lone parents off benefit and into work. This would involve single parents with children over the age of five going for interviews at a Job-

centre where they would be urged to look for work. The Benefits Agency would be asked to draw up employment and child care plans.

Labour said the plan, and other proposals to reduce the £10bn cost to the state of single parents, had been modelled on Australia's successful jobs, education and training (Jet) programme.

Mr Major said Labour's scheme appeared to be a watered-down version of government policy, excluding more spending and private sector involvement. "So I suspect there's not a great deal in the speech except some copycat policies."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrats' leader, said Mr Blair had come up with an old policy, rebated, adding that Labour must put its money where its mouth was.

"The best way to assist single parents," he said, "is to provide pre-school education for all from three years on, of a high quality basis."

Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, reinforced the Prime Minister's point, saying Mr Blair was imitating the Government's "Parent Plus" plans.

However, the £20m Parent Plus project, a pilot scheme, is to be used in only twelve areas

and does not start until April - the very last possible month of the current Parliament.

Mr Blair stressed there was no question of forcing single mothers into work by draconian measures such as cutting their benefits. It was about offering them choice, he said.

Many lone parents wanted to take up work but could not find child care, or found it was not worthwhile under the current system as they would lose some benefits.

Only 41 per cent of lone parents in Britain are in paid work, compared with 82 per cent in France and 70 per cent in Sweden.

Keeper denied fixing claims

Michael Streeter

Bruce Grobbelaar told reporters investigating the alleged fixing of football matches he had "never tried to throw a game" in his life, a court was told yesterday.

The jury at Winchester Crown Court saw a video recording of the former Liverpool and Southampton keeper meeting journalists from the Sun newspaper at Gatwick airport in November 1994 as he was about to fly to Zimbabwe.

This followed a "sting" operation against Mr Grobbelaar mounted by his former friend and business associate Christopher Vincent and the newspaper in which meetings between the two men, when Mr Grobbelaar allegedly accepted £2,000 on behalf of a bogus betting syndicate, were secretly filmed.

During the Gatwick meeting the keeper was told by two reporters that over the previous two weeks they had compiled "irrefutable evidence" that he had received 40,000 for throwing a Premier League match.

A reporter accused Mr Grobbelaar of receiving money from a syndicate through a middle man - the Short Man - for letting in goals. He was told: "You actually talk about the things you've done, the way you've tried to throw games."

He replied: "I've never tried to throw a game in my life."

He was asked: "Are you denying it all, then?" He replied: "Yes, I'm totally denying it."

Mr Grobbelaar, 39, former Aston Villa and Wimbledon striker John Fashanu, 34, former Wimbledon keeper Hans Segers, 35, and Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lin, 31, deny conspiracy to give and accept corrupt payments to influence the outcome of football matches. Grobbelaar also denies a further charge of accepting £2,000 from Mr Vincent for improperly influencing or attempting to influence the outcome of matches.

The trial resumes next week.

TAKE YOUR BETTER HALF TO THE *Istrian Riviera*
AND SAVE UP TO £200 PER COUPLE.

| UK AIRPORT | DESTINATION | DEPT DATE | NIGHTS | FLT CODE | ACCOMMODATION | GRADE/BOARD | BROCHURE PRICE* | PRICE AFTER EARLYBIRD SAVING AND 10% T. AGENT DISCOUNT** | SAVING PER COUPLE |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|----------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Birmingham | ROVINJ | 27 May | 14 | 29461 | EDEN | 3T / HB | £534 | £436 | £198 |
| Birmingham | PROEC | 03 Jun | 14 | 29461 | DIAMANT | 2T / HB | £418 | £323 | £191 |
| Birmingham | OPATJUA | 24 Jun | 14 | 29461 | ADMIRAL | 3T / HB | £552 | £452 | £200 |
| Birmingham | POREC | 01 Jul | 14 | 29461 | MEDITERAN | 3T / HB | £502 | £407 | £190 |
| Birmingham | OPATJUA | 15 Jul | 14 | 29461 | ADMIRAL | 3T / HB | £592 | £488 | £208 |
| Birmingham | ROVINJ | 15 Jul | 14 | 29461 | EDEN | 3T / HB | £596 | £492 | £209 |
| Birmingham | POREC | 15 Jul | 14 | 29461 | ZORNA | 3T / HB | £532 | £434 | £196 |
| Birmingham | RABAC | 29 Jul | 14 | 29461 | NEPTUN | 3T / HB | £593 | £489 | £208 |
| Birmingham | POREC | 28 Aug | 14 | 29461 | DIAMANT | 2T / HB | £503 | £399 | £208 |
| Gatwick | ROVINJ | 06 May | 14 | 29460 | EDEN | 3T / HB | £415 | £329 | £172 |
| Gatwick | POREC | 20 May | 14 | 29460 | PICAL | 3T / HB | £405 | £320 | £170 |
| Gatwick | POREC | 27 May | 7 | 29460 | ZORNA | 3T / HB | £309 | £234 | £161 |
| Gatwick | OPATJUA | 27 May | 14 | 29460 | ADMIRAL | 3T / HB | £515 | £419 | £192 |
| Gatwick | ROVINJ | 03 Jun | 7 | 29460 | EDEN | 3T / HB | £345 | £266 | £158 |
| Gatwick | POREC | 03 Jun | 14 | 29460 | TAMARIS | 3T / HB | £409 | £324 | £171 |
| Gatwick | POREC | 10 Jun | 14 | 29460 | PICAL | 3T / HB | £445 | £356 | £178 |
| Gatwick | POREC | 17 Jun | 7 | 29460 | DIAMANT | 2T / HB | £295 | £212 | £166 |
| Gatwick | ROVINJ | 17 Jun | 14 | 29460 | PARK | 3T / HB | £499 | £405 | £189 |
| Gatwick | POREC | 24 Jun | 7 | 29460 | DIAMANT | 2T / HB | £315 | £230 | £170 |
| Gatwick | ROVINJ | 24 Jun | 14 | 29460 | PARK | 3T / HB | £515 | £419 | £192 |
| Gatwick | POREC | 01 Jul | 7 | 29460 | EDEN | 3T / HB | £365 | £284 | £162 |
| Gatwick | POREC | 01 Jul | 14 | 29460 | PICAL | 3T / HB | £495 | £401 | £188 |
| Gatwick | POREC | 08 Jul | 14 | 29460 | PICAL | 3T / HB | £509 | £414 | £191 |
| Gatwick | POREC | 15 Jul | 7 | 29460 | DIAMANT | 2T / HB | £335 | £248 | £174 |

Croatia's untouched Istrian Riviera lies just across the Adriatic from Italy. It's a spectacular haven of Venetian architecture, unspoilt resorts and clear waters. Thomson's holidays to the Istrian Riviera mean the best value in the Mediterranean this summer. And our Earlybird savings can mean up to £100 off per couple. What's more, you can save an extra 10% if you book through selected travel agents. They'll show you how, all in all, a couple can save up to £200 off their holiday. But hurry. The best deals are going fast.

THOMSON

*Brochure prices are per person based on 2 sharing in standard hotel accommodation and on maximum occupancy in standard self-catering accommodation. HB=half board, BB=bed & breakfast, SC=full catering, RO=room only. See relevant accommodation page in Thomson Summer Sun brochure for occupancy levels. **Your local travel agent will be able to advise current Earlybird savings, and if they are offering 10% discount this discount is subject to purchase of travel agent insurance at time of booking. Your travel agent can advise this cost. Some savings shown may be more than £200. Holidays and offers subject to availability. Thomson Tour Operations Ltd. ATDL 2524 ABTA V5126.

Only Currys bring you all this

SALE TELEVISIONS SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £110

| | |
|--|--|
| MATSUI 14" Televison TV with Remote Control 34cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 14T11 Was £159.99. SALE PRICE £149.99 | HITACHI 25" Hi-CAM Stereo TV with Hi-Fi 58cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 25H11 Was £449.99. SALE PRICE £449.99 |
| MATSUI 20" Televison TV with Remote Control 51cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 20T11 Was £219.99. SALE PRICE £189.99 | PANASONIC 25" Hi-CAM Stereo TV with Hi-Fi 58cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 25H11 Was £449.99. SALE PRICE £449.99 |
| SONY 14" Portable TV with Fastest 34cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 14T11 Was £159.99. SALE PRICE £149.99 | SONY 25" Hi-CAM Stereo TV with Fastest 58cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 25H11 Was £449.99. SALE PRICE £449.99 |
| THOMSON 21" Fastest TV with Hi-Fi 51cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 21T11 Was £249.99. SALE PRICE £249.99 | SONY 25" Hi-CAM Stereo TV with Fastest 58cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 25H11 Was £449.99. SALE PRICE £449.99 |
| GRUNDIG 21" Hi-CAM Stereo TV with Hi-Fi 51cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 21T11 Was £249.99. SALE PRICE £249.99 | SONY 25" Hi-CAM Stereo TV with Fastest 58cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 25H11 Was £449.99. SALE PRICE £449.99 |
| PANASONIC 21" Hi-CAM Stereo TV with Hi-Fi 51cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 21T11 Was £249.99. SALE PRICE £249.99 | SONY 25" Hi-CAM Stereo TV with Fastest 58cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 25H11 Was £449.99. SALE PRICE £449.99 |
| BUSH 28" Hi-CAM Stereo TV with Teletext 71cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 28T11 Was £399.99. SALE PRICE £399.99 | SONY 25" Hi-CAM Stereo TV with Fastest 58cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 25H11 Was £449.99. SALE PRICE £449.99 |
| SANYO 25" Hi-CAM Stereo TV with Hi-Fi 64cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 25T11 Was £449.99. SALE PRICE £449.99 | SONY 25" Hi-CAM Stereo TV with Fastest 58cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 25H11 Was £449.99. SALE PRICE £449.99 |

TOP BRAND VIDEOS SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £60

| | |
|---|---|
| MATSUI Long Play Video with Remote Control Model VXA1100 Was £149.99. SALE PRICE £139.99 | MATSUI Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model VPA100 Was £159.99. SALE PRICE £159.99 |
| AIWA Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model VPA100 Was £179.99. SALE PRICE £179.99 | JVC Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model VPA100 Was £199.99. SALE PRICE £199.99 |
| AIWA 4-head Hi-CAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model VPA100 Was £269.99. SALE PRICE £269.99 | SONY 4-head Super Hi-Fi Hi-CAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model VPA100 Was £389.99. SALE PRICE £389.99 |

TV VIDEO PACKAGES SAVE UP TO £100

| | |
|---|---|
| JVC 21" Fastest TV with Remote Control 51cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 21T11 Was £479.99. SALE PRICE £479.99 | MATSUI 28" Hi-CAM Stereo TV with Hi-Fi 71cm visible screen size. Teletext for access to information services. Model 28T11 Was £599.99. SALE PRICE £599.99 |
|---|---|

SALE PCs SAVE UP TO £450

| | |
|--|---|
| ADVENT Multimedia PC with 16MB RAM/1GB hard drive. Model 8125. Was £499.99. SALE PRICE £499.99 | PACKARD BELL Multimedia PC with 16MB RAM/1GB hard drive. Model 8125. Was £499.99. SALE PRICE £499.99 |
| FUJITSU Multimedia PC with 16MB RAM/1GB hard drive. Model 8125. Was £499.99. SALE PRICE £499.99 | APPLE Multimedia PC with 16MB RAM/1GB hard drive. Model 8125. Was £499.99. SALE PRICE £499.99 |
| APRICOT Multimedia PC with 16MB RAM/1GB hard drive. Model 8125. Was £499.99. SALE PRICE £499.99 | PACKARD BELL Multimedia PC with 16MB RAM/1GB hard drive. Model 8125. Was £499.99. SALE PRICE £499.99 |

GAME PACKS - SAVE UP TO £100

| | |
|--|---|
| PLAYSTATION 2 GAME PACK Includes 2 games. Was £100. SALE PRICE £100 | SONY 8mm Camcorder with 10x Optical Zoom Model 8125. Was £499.99. SALE PRICE £499.99 |
|--|---|

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL RETAILER'S

SALE

SAVE UP TO £200

BUY NOW PAY UP TO 18 MONTHS LATER INTEREST FREE ON A RANGE OF DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

ON A RANGE OF TOP BRAND PRODUCTS

SONY 28" Hi-CAM Stereo TV with Fastest 71cm visible screen size.
Teletext for access to information services.
Model 28T11
Was £599.99. **SALE PRICE** £599.99

AIWA CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model 8125. Was £379.99. **SALE PRICE** £379.99

SONY 8mm Camcorder with 10x Optical Zoom
Model 8125. Was £499.99. **SALE PRICE** £499.99

ACER ACROS P100 Intel Pentium Multimedia PC
Model 8125. Was £799.99. **SALE PRICE** £799.99

HOTPOINT 1000 Spin 'Aquarius De Luxe' Dishwasher
Model 8125. Was £379.99. **SALE PRICE** £379.99

CANDY 9.8 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer
Model 8125. Was £279.99. **SALE PRICE** £279.99

HOOVER Full Size 'Soft Wave' Dishwasher
Model 8125. Was £160. **SALE PRICE** £160

ACER ACROS P100 Intel Pentium Multimedia PC
Model 8125. Was £799.99. **SALE PRICE** £799.99

STOVES 50cm Slot-in Gas Cooker
Model 8125. Was £499.99. **SALE PRICE** £499.99

SALE LAUNDRY & DISHWASHERS SAVE UP TO £160

| | |
|--|--|
| EUROTECH 1200 Spin Dishwasher Model 8125. Was £229.99. SALE PRICE £229.99 | CANDY 1200 Spin Dishwasher Model 8125. Was £269.99. SALE PRICE £269.99 |
| CREDA 1000 Spin Dishwasher Model 8125. Was £279.99. SALE PRICE £279.99 | PHILCO 1200 Spin Dishwasher Model 8125. Was £299.99. SALE PRICE £299.99 |
| HOOVER 1100 Spin Dishwasher Model 8125. Was £349.99. SALE PRICE £349.99 | CANDY Full Size Dishwasher Model 8125. Was £389.99. SALE PRICE £389.99 |

REFRIGERATION SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £140

| | |
|--|--|
| NOVA SCOTIA 3.8 cu.ft. Chest Freezer Model 8125. Was £99.99. SALE PRICE £99.99 | NOVA SCOTIA 5.1 cu.ft. Fridge Model 8125. Was £109.99. SALE PRICE £109.99 |
| CANDY 4.2 cu.ft. Fridge with 3 Star Model 8125. Was £129.99. SALE PRICE £129.99 | LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Fridge Model 8125. Was £139.99. SALE PRICE £139.99 |
| BEKO 4.1 cu.ft. Upright Freezer Model 8125. Was £149.99. SALE PRICE £149.99 | CANDY 8.0 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Model 8125. Was £199.99. SALE PRICE £199.99 |

SALE CD HI-FI SYSTEMS SAVE UP TO £150

| | |
|--|---|
| MATSUI Ultra Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi Model 8125. Was £89.99. SALE PRICE £89.99 | SONY CD Hi-Fi Model 8125. Was £379.99. SALE PRICE £379.99 |
| AIWA Ultra Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi Model 8125. Was £169.99. SALE PRICE £169.99 | JVC Ultra Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi Model 8125. Was £249.99. SALE PRICE £249.99 |

SALE PORTABLE CD HI-FI SAVE UP TO £40

| | |
|--|--|
| SONY Portable CD System Model 8125. Was £79.99. SALE PRICE £79.99 | AIWA Portable CD System Model 8125. Was £159.99. SALE PRICE £159.99 |
|--|--|

SALE CAMCORDERS SAVE UP TO £120

| | |
|---|--|
| SONY 8mm Camcorder with 10x Optical Zoom Model 8125. Was £499.99. SALE PRICE £499.99 | PANASONIC 8mm Camcorder with 10x Optical Zoom Model 8125. Was £499.99. SALE PRICE £499.99 |
|---|--|

SALE COOKERS SAVE UP TO £200

| | |
|--|---|
| FRIGIDAIRE 50cm Slot-in Electric Cooker Model 8125. Was £169.99. SALE PRICE £169.99 | PARKINSON COWAN 50cm Slot-in Electric Cooker Model 8125. Was £249.99. SALE PRICE £249.99 |
| CREDA 50cm Slot-in Electric Cooker Model 8125. Was £289.99. SALE PRICE £289.99 | LEISURE 50cm Slot-in Electric Cooker Model 8125. Was £289.99. SALE PRICE £289.99 |

SALE BUILT-IN COOKING PACKAGE - SAVE £100

| | |
|--|--|
| NEFF 60cm Electric Oven Model 8125. Was £669.99. SALE PRICE £669.99 | NEFF 60cm Electric Oven Model 8125. Was £669.99. SALE PRICE £669.99 |
|--|--|

SALE MICROWAVES SAVE UP TO £70

| | |
|--|--|
| SANYO Compact Microwave Model 8125. Was £89.99. SALE PRICE £89.99 | PANASONIC 0.8 cu.ft. Microwave with Convection Oven and Grill Model 8125. Was £249.99. SALE PRICE £249.99 |
|--|--|

SALE VACUUMS SAVE UP TO HALF PRICE

| | |
|--|--|
| ELECTROLUX Cylinder Cleaner Model 8125. Was £69.99. SALE PRICE £69.99 | DYSON Dual Cyclone Cylinder Cleaner Model 8125. Was £189.99. SALE PRICE £189.99 |
|--|--|

SALE LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT

Find a lower price for the same product and offer, complete, new, boxed and in stock in a local shop within 7 days of purchase, and we'll match it. WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

Currys

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL RETAILER

| WOMACHERS | | WOMACHERS | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| HOOVER 1200 SPIN DISHWASHER | £74.99 | PRODIGE 2052821 TELEVISION FREEZER | £249.99 |
| ONYX 1200 PORTABLE CD | £129.99 | THOMSON 28" HI-CAM STEREO TV | £599.99 |
| NOVA SCOTIA MC7029 CD MICRO HI-FI | £89.99 | AIWA 9.8CU.FT.150L NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £269.99 |
| NOVA SCOTIA MC7405000S FRIDGE | £189.99 | ARCTIC CCM2150 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £279.99 |
| FRIGIDAIRE 10.2 CU.FT. CHEST FREEZER | £239.99 | FRIGIDAIRE 10.2 CU.FT. CHEST FREEZER | £239.99 |
| FRIGIDAIRE 2700 21" PORTABLE DYPER | £129.99 | PANASONIC 2100D 21" STEREO TV | £359.99 |
| NOVA SCOTIA 3.8 CU.FT. CHEST FREEZER | £99.99 | SONY 28" HI-CAM STEREO TV | £599.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | £399.99 |
| SONY 1411 14" TURBULE TV | £109.99 | SONY SLVET71 NICAM STEREO VIDEO | |

Comput
V-cru
fills th

The P
that lik
to sa
N
salesmen
commis
jargon.
hassle.
dire
0345 95 95

dire
95 95

صبرنا من الامل

High-flying songwriter who bailed out for the simple life



Guitar man: Peter Dello teaching at Stepney Green school - 'I might have been richer, but would I have been more happy?' Photograph: Edward Sykes

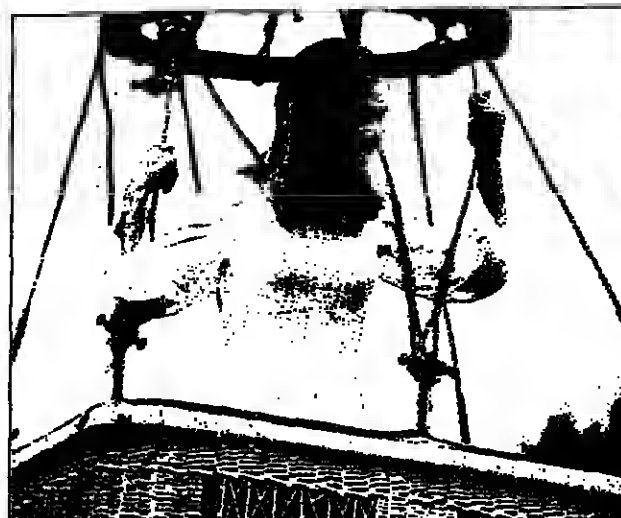
Russell Newmark

It was a classic pop song which had a lengthy afterlife as a long-running television commercial featuring a girl soaring skywards in a hot air balloon. But the man who created the song wanted nothing to do with stardom and has become a teacher at a comprehensive in east London.

The Sixties song "I Can't Let Maggie Go", with its catchy melody and refrain "She flies like a bird in the sky", was a top 10 hit for the group Honeybus in 1968, and radically featured a woodwind quartet - two oboes, a bassoon and a cor anglais in a pop song setting.

The song had a long afterlife, commandeered by Margaret Thatcher's supporters in one election campaign, but mainly as the theme for the advertisement for Nimble bread. Now the advert and song have been revived for a new campaign.

The song's success and reappearance now causes ambivalent feelings for its composer, arranger and singer Peter Dello who formed Honeybus, but left the group after "I Can't Let Maggie Go" because he did not



Light bite: The song featured in an advert for Nimble bread

like life on the road as a pop performer, and refused to sing the vocals when the song was first used in the Nimble advertisements.

Now teaching music at Stepney Green school, 54-year-old Mr Dello says he just used Maggie for the sake of a name. "I don't think I knew a Maggie actually. At first I was deligh-

ed when the song hit the charts, but what I really didn't want was to have my life taken over, which is what could have happened."

He has no regrets, he says, about leaving the pop world for teaching. "If I'd written a lot more I might have been a lot richer now," he concedes. "But would I have been more happy?"

Computerised CV-cruncher fills the job

Lucy Ward
Education Correspondent

There was a time when employers relied on an eye for a good CV, a probing interview technique and a healthy sense of scepticism to seek out top graduates during their annual recruitment round. Today, they have a new weapon in the battle to pick the best staff for the job - artificial intelligence.

Increasingly, big firms offering hundreds of graduate jobs each year are turning to information technology to help sift through the thousands of applications pouring in.

CVs and forms which would once have been sorted by hand are now more likely in some companies to be fed into computers programmed to trawl through the data in search of pre-set criteria. Thanks to new software already widely used in America, candidates may be accepted or rejected on the basis of their degree subject, grade or institution, their skills, or even their role as third violin in the school orchestra.

Once sorted into categories, they can instantly be sent a computer-generated rejection letter or invitation for interview.

The development, still in its early stages, is viewed enthusiastically by employers struggling to cope with rising numbers of

graduate applications. After the recession at the start of the decade, relatively few have returned to the "milk round" - the annual tour of universities in search of likely candidates - and computers offer one alternative means of filtering applicants.

University careers advisers, however, have more reservations, warning that computer programs which sort one CV every two minutes may not be sufficiently sophisticated to trawl fairly. Final-year students applying to ICL, Mercury and Motorola this year will be among those whose first challenge will be impressing a computer. Yvette Coulthard, head of group resourcing at ICL, declined to give away the company's selection criteria, but said examples could be a Cambridge computer science degree, systems-integration experience or "being captain of a team or senior prefect".

ICL was won over to a program called Resumix when it used it two years ago to help recruit 500 people in three months to staff the National Lottery operator, Camelot.

Another package, known as Oscar, is used by companies such as Sainsbury's and Tesco to "read" candidates' applications, including answers to the psychometric tests increasingly favoured by graduate recruiters.

Eurostar is pleased to announce that carrots are back in season.



Free standard return ticket!

When you buy a Premium First or Business First return ticket on Eurostar for travel before 31st March, join our Frequent Traveller Programme. You'll automatically receive an allotment of 500 bonus points, which, for the duration of this offer, is sufficient for a standard class return.

Effectively, we'll give you a free return ticket.

And anyone not tempted by a carrot like that has their head buried in the sand. Or rather, the compost.

*Travel dates subject to availability. Offer ends 31st March. Bonus points are for reward only and do not count towards status levels. One ticket allocation per member. †Calls charged at 10p per minute at all times. 0345 30 30 30 calls charged at local rate. All calls are monitored for quality.

eurostar

The PEP that likes to say



NO salesmen.
NO commission.
NO jargon.
NO hassle.

Virgin direct
personal financial service

0345 95 95 95

Open seven days a week from 9am to 10pm

For the Growth PEP: minimum investment £50 a month or £1,000 lump sum. For the Income PEP: £5,000 lump sum only.

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Financial Services Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back all the money you invest. For your security, all calls to Virgin Direct will be recorded and randomly monitored.

Find your Oasis

0990 086 086
Oasis
Financial Village

news



Heavy duty: Contractors removing a five-ton statue from the garden of Jan and Wilfred Simms's home in Brighton, East Sussex, where it has resided since Mr Simms bought it as a present for his wife. The statue is expected to fetch £30,000 at auction. Photograph: Michael Scates

Britain on-line for first election on the Internet

Rob Brown
Media Editor

Political junkies eager for John Major to name the date of the general election will be relieved to learn that coverage of campaign '97 will kick off in earnest in only three days' time – on the Internet.

On Tuesday, the first of a batch of special election web sites (<http://ge97.co.uk>) is scheduled to make its debut. The same day, libertarian techies from both sides of the Atlantic will gather in London to discuss the prospect of putting politics on the information superhighway.

The speakers will include Michael Martin, creative director of Online Magic, who forecasts that the coming elec-

tion will see the emergence of a new political reporting medium and a significant new forum for debate.

The last time Britain went to the polls five years ago, web use was still confined to the nation's science laboratories and a handful of hi-tech buffs. Now more than two million people in this country use the Net, a figure which is expected to rise by 50 per cent this year.

"Obviously only a minority of even these people are going to use the new media as their primary source of information in the forthcoming campaign, but the new media's coverage of the election is going to be more than a mere sideline," said Mr Martin.

The first definitive study of Internet use in the recent US presidential election – to be unveiled at Tuesday's conference – reveals that almost a third of American voters (28 per cent) were online at some point during the course of the 1996 presidential campaign.

At the climax of the campaign in November, 11 per cent of the US electorate used websites published by either newspapers

or broadcasting organisations and 8 per cent accessed sites published by the rival candidates and political parties.

"Any question of acceptance of the Internet as a source of political information was resolved on election night when so many news-hungry web users were online trying to get election returns that the entire computer network was swamped," said Adam Clayton Powell III, vice-president of the Freedom Forum, who will fly in from Washington for Tuesday's conference.

Democrat and Republican strategists realised the increasing importance of reaching the wired generation some time back. Both parties ploughed significant resources into campaign web sites.

Britain's main political parties have been holding back. Partly this is down to lingering technophobia and a desire to concentrate effort and resources on traditional forms of propaganda such as posters and party political broadcasts. But it is also because the rival parties are wary about prematurely overstretching their election expense accounts.

Youngsters face seizing of drink

Police will be given new powers to confiscate alcohol from under-age drinkers under a backbench Bill approved by the Commons yesterday with Government and Opposition support.

The Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Bill, which was given an unopposed second reading and now looks set to become law, gives the police powers to seize and destroy alcohol in possession of a person under 18 in a public place whom they believe has been drinking or is about to drink in public.

Under the Bill's provisions, officers will be able to confiscate alcohol from anyone when they consider it will be passed on to under-age drinkers to consume in public, and also to report under-age drinking to the culprit's parents. It would be an offence to refuse to hand over drink with a maximum £500 fine. The Tory backbencher Dr Robert Spink, MP for Castle Point, introducing his Bill, said the measure was part of the Government's drive to "make our streets safer".

The Home Office minister

Timothy Kirkhope said the Bill would close a loophole in the law, which was causing problems all over Britain and provided a "quick on-the-spot solution" to a disturbing increase in "loud and loutish" behaviour.

For the Opposition, George Howarth welcomed the measure and praised Labour controlled local authorities in Coventry and Glasgow for pioneering schemes to ban all public drinking on the streets.

Dr Spink said there had been cases of children as young as nine "tanking" up on alcohol and at present nothing could be done to stop it. "This is a complete nonsense. This Bill will give police the power to stop the drinking and confiscate the alcohol before it becomes the cause of trouble for the public and the youngsters themselves."

The Bill will not give young people a criminal record that might blight their future careers, but put responsibility back with the family.

Mr Kirkhope said: "It will make a real difference to the quality of life for many people across the country."

Advertisement.

Make choosing a holiday less of a lottery!

Choose the holiday destination that's got exactly what you want – with the help of *Which? Holiday Destination*. Glossy brochures can never tell the full story, so use this invaluable guide and get the key facts – both good and bad – before you book your holiday.

Brought to you by the people at *Which?* (part of the *Which?* range of magazines), the book covers nearly 40 countries. It contains unbiased summaries of what each place offers, including unmissable sights and attractions, and the best locations – whether you want a family holiday, art, culture and touring, non-stop partying, or just peace and quiet!

It also looks at • climate • cost of living • activities on offer • when to go • packages

• independent holidays • specialist tour operators • accommodation. There are suggestions on which destinations are good for • beaches • sampling local culture • food and wine • nightlife • scenery • shopping • wildlife • outdoor activities.

Which? Holiday Destination provides all the information you'll need to choose the place that's right for you, and costs just £12.99 (P&P FREE). To order, send your name and address, the book title and your payment (cheque made payable to *Which? Ltd* or credit card number with valid from/expiry dates) to: *Which?*, PO Box 89, Dept SP180, Hertford, SG14 1TB. Orders are normally despatched within 14 days of receipt. Full refund if not satisfied.

Renewing your home insurance in January or February and want to save money?

- * Saga - The specialists in insurance for people aged 50 and over
- * Comprehensive, low cost cover
- * A service that is direct and trouble free
- * Discount for secure homes

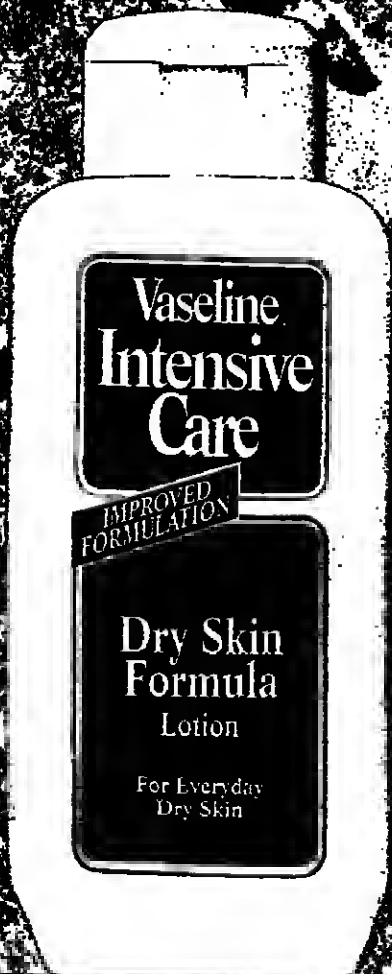
Call free today! **SAGA** Services Ltd

0800 414 525 Quoting reference ID1703

Lines open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 7pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

HELP
WANTED THIS
WINTER.
APPLY NOW



GIVE YOUR SKIN BACK WHAT THE WINTER TAKES OUT

صحة من الامم

A fruity little offer...

Explore a world of quality wine

We'll give you two bottles to start with

THERE'S a whole world of wine out there - and it's yours to explore at a fraction of the usual price. Like the independent traveller who likes to eschew package holidays and wander off the beaten path, the wine explorer has adventures in store. Our offer will free you from the mass market world of supermarket plonk or super-pricey "quality" wine merchants.

At only £39.99 for a 12-bottle case, you can save at least £30 each on any one or all of the five sample cases on offer. They come from France, Italy, Spain and Australia. Each of these contains three bottles of four specially selected wines to give you a true flavour of independent winemakers from each country. And then there is the World Selection, which includes examples from each country.

All will be delivered to your door (you don't get much more direct than that) for a charge of £4.95. You will also receive full tasting notes and a free copy of Bordeaux Direct's Wine Guide. All explorers benefit from local guides who really know the lay of the land - and this is where Bordeaux Direct, recently acclaimed by Grapevine as "By The Case" Wine Merchant of the Year for 1997, comes in.

Its founder, Tony Laithwaite, brought his first consignment direct from a Bordeaux producer in 1969. He believed then - and still does - that the way to buy real wine is to go straight to source, the winemaker in the vineyard.

From those tiny beginnings, he has built the company into an enterprise that has travelled the globe in search of quality at an affordable price. Now, 28 years later, he has applied that principle to the point where the firm should really be called "Bordeaux-and anywhere-else-in-the-world-that-produces-good-wine Direct." That expertise is now at your disposal.

You can have full confidence. Bordeaux Direct guarantees: "Taste the wines and if you

are not completely satisfied we will refund you in full - no questions asked."

Stocks are strictly limited so order as soon as you can.

The offer, exclusive to readers of The Independent and Independent on Sunday, is:

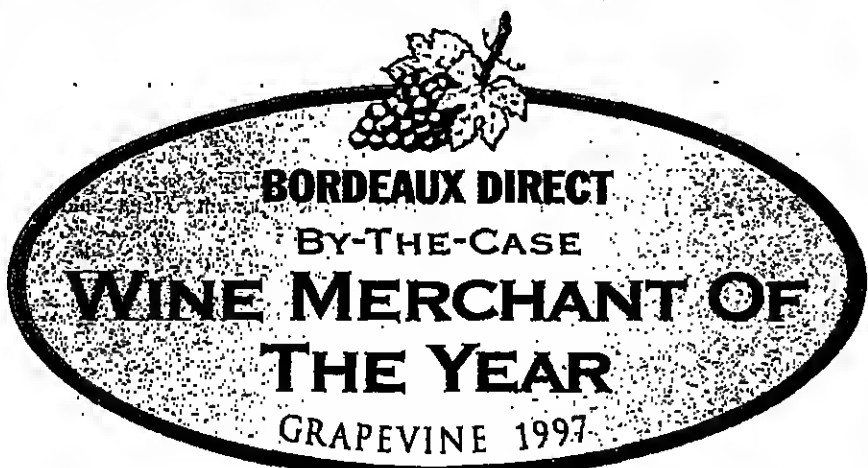
1 FROM FRANCE: Les Landiers Sauvignon Blanc 1996, Jardin de la France VdP; Domaine des Verchères Chardonnay 1995, Bourgogne AOC; Les Abeilles 1994, Côtes du Rhône AOC; Château Grand Videau 1994, Bordeaux Supérieur AOC. Normal price: £78.34. Offer price: £39.99.

1 FROM ITALY: Lucania Chardonnay & Pinot Grigio 1995, Basilicata VdT; Villa Angela Chardonnay 1995, Marche VdT; Farnese Signifero 1995, Montepulciano d'Abruzzo DOC; La Siulua 1995, Trentino Merlot DOC. Normal price: £76.94. Offer price: £39.99.

1 FROM SPAIN: Familia Martinez Bujanda Blanco Oak-Aged 1994, Rioja DOC; Castillo Labasida 1995, Rioja DOC; Masia Bach Merlot 1994, Penedes DO; La Cantera 1991, Cariñena DO. Normal price: £77.52. Offer price: £39.99.

1 FROM AUSTRALIA: McKinney Ridge 1996, South Eastern Australia; Woongara Sauvignon Blanc 1996, Redcliffe Coonawarra; Tatchilla Keystone Grenache Shiraz 1995, McLaren Vale; Raven's Creek 1996, South Eastern Australia. Normal Price: £73.98. Offer price: £39.99.

1 WORLD SELECTION: Domaine des Verchères Chardonnay 1995, Bourgogne AOC; Familia Martinez Bujanda Blanco Oak-Aged 1994, Rioja DOC; McKinney Ridge 1996, South Eastern Australia; Les Landiers Sauvignon Blanc 1996, Jardin de la France VdP; Farnese Signifero 1995, Montepulciano d'Abruzzo DOC; Château Grand Videau 1994, Bordeaux Supérieur AOC; La Cantera 1991, Cariñena DO; Raven's Creek 1996, South Eastern Australia. Normal price: £70.88. Offer price: £39.99.



TODAY: FOCUS ON FRANCE

YOU MAY have thought that France, the most prestigious wine-producing country, is notoriously over-explored. But there are still many hidden pearls - and hidden perils. In any one region, there will be hundreds of producers offering their wares. It takes a steady nerve to separate the charlatans from the champions. Our explorer will find this one of the best-mapped areas of the world. The drawback is that so many signposts point in so many different directions, you can easily get lost. This is where you need the most expert wine guide. Who better than Bordeaux Direct?

Burgundy, the Loire, Bordeaux and the Côtes du

Rhône are all represented.

Here are tasting notes on two of the four wines in the 12-bottle case. We will feature the other two later in the series.

Les Abeilles 1994, Côtes du Rhône AOC. Grown on very sandy soil, the grapes used are mainly Grenache, which tends to give a lovely velvety texture with brambly fruit, with a little of the sterner Syrah to provide structure and finesse.

André Roux's special winemaking techniques at his Chusclan cellar are designed to bring out the richness and lushness of the fruit with little of the harsh tannins. Hence their popularity.

This will go well with

herby dishes such as cassoulet and casseroles or lighter meats such as pork. Drink this year.

Les Landiers Sauvignon Blanc 1996. Now here's a real delight, a rich, yet light and lively white to drink chilled as an aperitif or with rich fish and white meat dishes (or even a lightly-flavoured salad).

It's a classic expression of the Sauvignon Blanc grape - and the good news is that the 1996 vintage on the Loire can now be confirmed as surpassing the greatly-praised 1995.

Experts will rave about gooseberries, lemons and nettles, but most of us will be happy that it is tangy, aromatic and refreshing.



2 FREE BOTTLES OF WINE

The Independent and Independent on Sunday have joined Bordeaux Direct to invite our readers to enjoy two free bottles of wine, delivered direct to your door. We will send you a bottle each of Domaine de Liboreau Charentais VdP 1995 and Farnese Signifero 1995, Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, which normally retail from Bordeaux Direct at £4.79 and £4.99 respectively. Simply collect 10 differently numbered tokens (including two from the Independent on Sunday) from the 16 tokens we will be printing from today until Sunday February 9. You then need to send the tokens with one of the application forms we will publish from Monday February 3, together with a cheque for £2.50 to cover delivery.

It is as simple as that - there's no need to take vouchers to a supermarket and you do not even have to take advantage of our other generous offer of selected cases.

Bordeaux Direct is part of Direct Wines, a privately owned company established in 1969, which has grown to become the world's largest home delivery wine specialist. Last year it delivered no fewer than 12 million bottles in the UK.

Bordeaux Direct is renowned for putting new wine regions, such as Bulgaria and Chile, on the map. The Influential guide, Grapevine, recently voted it "By The Case" Wine Merchant of the Year for 1997.

It is particularly famous for its ability to seek out high quality wines at affordable prices - and the two wines the Independent is offering free are prime examples.

THE WINES:

Domaine de Liboreau 1995, Charentais VdP. Predominantly Sauvignon, this is a pale green-straw in colour, redolent of fresh tangy lemons and palate-tickling hint of gooseberries. Crisp, fresh, fruity - with a refreshing and lively finish.

It comes from the Charente area in the Atlantic south-west of France, just north of Bordeaux, which is also home to Cognac. The worldwide slump in demand for brandies in the early 1990s meant that grapes originally intended for distilling are instead being used to make excellent table wines.

This exceptional wine was developed almost by chance thanks to a disaster when maturing stocks of Cognac caught fire and completely destroyed the cellars at Domaine de Liboreau. This meant that just as the switch to making wine instead of brandy became necessary, the domaine was equipped with completely new, up-to-the-minute technology, capable of producing wine far surpassing expectations!

Farnese Signifero 1995 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo. Here is a versatile all-rounder - easy, gentle on the palate without any of those harsh scouring tannins that often make the mouth pucker when tasting the less sophisticated Montepulcianos or other Italian reds.

No wonder, then, that it was commended in the 1996 International Wine Challenge (one of the pickiest wine competitions in the world) and selected by the even pickier Wine Spectator as one of its best buys in March 1996. The Spectator's verdict was: "Smooth, spicy, almost plush in texture, with good cherry flavours and nice balance. An Italian red that is easy to enjoy now..."

Bordeaux Direct is especially closely involved both in how the grapes are grown and in how the wine is made. For 1995 the firm worked even more closely with producers to secure the best fruit from the best vineyard sites, in the province of Chieti, just behind Pescara on the Adriatic coast. Filippo Baccalano, the winemaker, paid extra-special attention to such good fruit and made for Bordeaux Direct a cuvée with deeper colour and more fruit than is usual.

THE INDEPENDENT WINE CASES ORDER FORM THE INDEPENDENT

Please complete this order form and return it with your payment to: Bordeaux Direct, FREEPOST, Reading RG4 5ZZ. (No stamp required) or telephone 0118 946 9555. I would like to order the 12-bottle case for just £39.99 (plus £4.95 p&p). I understand there is no commitment to any further purchase.

Mr/Ms/Miss/Other _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Where to leave it out (e.g. by back door) _____

| Item | Price (inc. P&P) | Please tick your choice. (One case per country only) | Total |
|----------------------|------------------|--|-------|
| French selection | £44.94 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Italian selection | £44.94 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Spanish selection | £44.94 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Australian selection | £44.94 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| World selection | £44.94 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Total: | | | |

I enclose a cheque for the amount _____ made payable to "Bordeaux Direct".
OR: Please charge _____ to my VISA/ACCESS/CONNECT/AMEX/DINERS CLUB card.

Card number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____ (I am over 18 years of age) Date: _____
Please allow 5-15 days for mainland delivery. UK addresses only, and Channel Islands. Introductory offer - new Bordeaux Direct customers only. Offer ends while stocks last, in the unlikely event of a wine becoming unavailable, we will substitute a wine of similar style and equal or greater retail value. Guarantee: There is absolutely no commitment to any further purchase. Every bottle is covered by our total guarantee. Taste the wines and if you are not completely satisfied we will refund you in full. No questions asked.
Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive future mailings from Bordeaux Direct ☐



Terms and Conditions

- Applications for the two free bottles of wine offer must be submitted on an official application form and received by March 10 1997, accompanied by 10 differently numbered tokens (with at least 2 from the Independent on Sunday) and a cheque for £2.50 made payable to Newspaper Publishing Plc. Tokens will be printed from Saturday 25 January to Sunday 9 February 1997. Application forms, including the address for applications, will be printed from Monday 3 February to Sunday 9 February.
- The offer is open to UK residents, excluding the Channel Islands, aged 18 years or over.
- Only one application per household is permitted. Multiple applications from trade or consumer groups will not be accepted.
- No photocopies of tokens or applications accepted.
- No responsibility can be accepted for damaged, incomplete or illegible applications.
- Offer subject to availability. We reserve the right to alter the wines offered, to wines of a similar quality.
- All wines will be delivered within a maximum of 28 days.
- Any claims for breakages in transit, incorrect or incomplete orders, must be made in writing within 7 days of delivery to The Independent.
- Wine Offer, Bordeaux Direct, PO Box 2252, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 5YF. Claims for non-delivery of goods dispatched by courier will only be considered if made within 31 days of the readers order.
- All enquiries must be made by mail only to the above address.
- The promoter is Newspaper Publishing Plc, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. (No applications to this address).

THE INDEPENDENT

2 FREE BOTTLES OF WINE
TOKEN 1

on-line election internet

ngsters facing of drink

choosing a holiday of a lottery!

Renewing your home insurance in January or February want to save money

414 525

international

Milosevic's man churns out lies in the country

"People here don't see opposition parties in the same way as in the West. We are all Serbs. Milosevic is closer to the people than the other leaders. Our political attitudes are closer to ordinary workers and peasants."

Branko Sretenovic, 48-year-old boss of the Serbian Socialist Party in the little town of Smederevska Palanka, seems confident that President Slobodan Milosevic will keep things looking rosy. "He's a very peaceful man."

Belgrade has been the focus of events in Serbia in recent months, with huge demonstrations that have put the regime under pressure as never before, demanding the recognition of opposition election victories across the country. This week, riot police beat up demonstrators in the central city of Krugujevac.

But the future of Serbia will be decided not only in Belgrade and the other big cities, but in places such as Smederevska Palanka, an unexceptional town of 20,000 inhabitants, sustained by one large factory and farming in the countryside.

Serbia's political ferment is starting to spread to rural backwaters, writes **Steve Crawshaw** in Smederevska Palanka

Sitting under a large oil painting of President Milosevic, Mr Sretenovic declares everything is under control in Smederevska Palanka. The town has had some protests—50 to 100 people a day. But, he said, the Socialist Party had won the recent elections. Twenty-seven seats went to the Socialists and 22 to the Zajedno opposition alliance. And was there any dispute over the figures, as there has been elsewhere in Serbia? None at all, Mr Sretenovic said.

Interesting, then, that the demonstrations turn out to get 1,000 people a day, not 50, and sometimes several thousand, according to many in the town. (Petar Zivanovic, the local correspondent for Radio Belgrade, offered radio reports

on the protests but was told what he could do with the idea. The nationwide pattern of protests is officially invisible.) Zajedno insists it defeated the Socialists with 26 to 23 seats, an opposition victory proclaimed on angry posters all around the town, and which has been upheld by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). When I return to ask Mr Sretenovic why he told such cheerful lies about "undisputed figures", he is (not surprisingly) lost for an answer. "May I offer you a drink?" he finally asks.

On the streets of Smederevska Palanka, there is little sign of the universal support for Mr Milosevic that Mr Sretenovic claims to detect. Petar Mirkovic, a dentist, says: "We're fed up with this government. It's too hardline. At the start I supported Milosevic. But it became obvious he's an orthodox Communist." Dejan Dabovic, 21, a night guard, believes that "Milosevic is terrible for our country". Dejan has not been paid for several months.

Most people in the town are either out of work, or theoret-



Laughing policeman: In Belgrade yesterday, a riot policeman in an unguarded moment at a cordon blocking student protesters Photograph: Reuters

ically in work but rarely paid. Even those who are paid have little to celebrate: £60 is a typical monthly wage. Not all have lost faith. Dragan, a farmer, insists: "We have no better man than Milosevic. He's a good man, he wants to save us."

None the less, now the wars in Bosnia and Croatia are over, there is little to bind this embittered community to its ruler. Petar Priradovic, a supporter of Zajedno, says Mr Milosevic will not let go easily: "Communists don't give up

power without blood. Milosevic wants to do that."

Even Mr Sretenovic is less loyal than he might once have been. Asked if Serbia is lucky to have Mr Milosevic, there is a long pause. "At the moment there's no other leader." And

will the President be seen positively by historians? Mr Sretenovic laughs nervously. "I can't judge. Only time will tell."

Belgrade (Reuters)—Serbian Socialist hardliners and opposition leaders from Krugujevac struck a deal yesterday over the

control of local media to avert more bloody clashes in the city. However, minutes later, the main board of the ruling Socialist Party (SPS) led by Mr Milosevic, slammed the opposition Zajedno coalition for "destabilising" the country.

WHERE DO I FIND THE BEST DEALS?

THINK THE LINK!

BIGGEST EVER SALE

MASSIVE SAVINGS ON CELLNET DIGITAL MOBILE PHONES

NO LINE RENTAL FOR A WHOLE YEAR ON CELLNET DIGITAL PACKAGES*

Ericsson 318 Digital Mobile Phone Package
• Up to 230 minutes talktime/47 hours standby
• 50 name and number memory
In-store Price £164.49*

Nokia 1610 Digital Mobile Phone Package
• Up to 210 minutes talktime/100 hours standby
• 100 name and number memory
In-store Price £164.49*

Philips Fizz Digital Mobile Phone
• Up to 75 minutes talktime/45 hours standby
• Up to 250 name and number memory
• Last 10 number redial
SALE PRICE Was £9.99** **HALF PRICE £4.99****

Nokia 2110 Digital Mobile Phone
• Up to 70 minutes talktime/20 hours standby
SAVE £10 **SALE PRICE** Was £79.99 **£69.99***

SAVE UP TO £20 ON CORDLESS PHONES

Geemarc Atlanta 10 number memory
SAVE £10 **SALE PRICE** Was £69.99 **£59.99**

Betacom Discovery 49.99
SAVE £5 **SALE PRICE** Was £54.99 **£49.99**

Binatone Airlink 800 99.99
SAVE £20 **SALE PRICE** Was £119.99 **£99.99**

BT Freestyle 1100 129.99
WITH BUILT-IN ANSWERING MACHINE **SALE PRICE** Was £139.99 **£129.99**

SAVE £5 ON ANSWERING MACHINES

Betacom Solo 24.99
SAVE £5 **SALE PRICE** Was £29.99 **£24.99**

Betacom Solo Plus 29.99
SAVE £5 **SALE PRICE** Was £34.99 **£29.99**

Dialatron CU300 39.99
SAVE £5 **SALE PRICE** Was £44.99 **£39.99**

BT Response 300 79.99
TOP BRAND **SALE PRICE** Was £89.99 **£79.99**

SAVE UP TO 35% ON TELEPHONES

BT Duet 200 19.99
SAVE £3 **SALE PRICE** Was £24.99 **£19.99**

Geemarc Napoli 9.99
SAVE £3 **SALE PRICE** Was £14.99 **£9.99**

Betacom Primo 14.99
SAVE £3 **SALE PRICE** Was £19.99 **£14.99**

Philips Pace 100 17.99
SAVE £10 **SALE PRICE** Was £27.99 **£17.99**

FREE CALLS For a whole year on selected Cellnet Analogue mobile phones*

one2one 15 minutes every month until the end of 1997*

FREE CHOICE GUARANTEE For a small one-off fee of £15 when you make your purchase, you can be assured that should your circumstances change, you can return your phone and cancel your airtime.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE If you are not completely satisfied, return your purchase for a refund within 14 days for mobile phones. 7 days for all other products.

77 Stores Nationwide

AND NOW OPEN IN:
• ABERDEEN • DERBY • EDINBURGH
• HANLEY • HEREFORD • LEEDS
• MANSFIELD • METRO CENTRE
• NEWCASTLE • NOTTINGHAM
• SOUTHPORT • STOCKPORT

FREEPHONE 0500 222 666
FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE AND TO ORDER DIRECT
Why not visit our Web Site at: www.the-link.co.uk

THE BIGGEST CHOICE Choose from the largest range of communication products in the UK - mobile phones, faxes, pagers, telephones - plus organisers and palmtop computers.

IMPARTIAL EXPERT ADVICE Our expert staff are specially trained in all communication products and will be happy to help you make the choice that's right for you.

THE LINK PRICE PROMISE If you find exactly the same package cheaper locally within 7 days, we will refund the difference.

COVERPLAN COMPREHENSIVE A range of insurance policies available on all our products, except software, to give you complete peace of mind for up to 5 years.

FREE CHOICE GUARANTEE For a small one-off fee of £15 when you make your purchase, you can be assured that should your circumstances change, you can return your phone and cancel your airtime.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE If you are not completely satisfied, return your purchase for a refund within 14 days for mobile phones. 7 days for all other products.

The Link

Menaced radio to stay on air

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

Croatia's only independent radio station won a broadcasting licence yesterday, two months after mass protests in Zagreb thwarted an attempt by the government to shut it down.

Radio 101, a Zagreb-based station viewed by many Croats as a beacon of free expression, was granted a five-year licence by the state telecommunications council, the same body which tried to silence the station last November.

Radio 101 is highly popular with young Croats, people of independent views and critics of President Franjo Tudjman's nationalist government. More than 100,000 people jammed the streets of Zagreb in support of the station two months ago in the largest anti-government protest since the country declared independence from Yugoslavia in 1991.

Since coming to power in 1990, Mr Tudjman has ensured that most Croatian newspapers, as well as national televi-

sion and radio, have fallen under the direct control or influence of his ruling party, the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ). However, the mass protests in Zagreb combined with pressure from Western governments to force him to give way over Radio 101.

Mr Tudjman, 74, who is thought to be suffering from advanced cancer, had more power with Radio 101 in the late 1980s, when it gave him airtime as an outspoken dissident against the former Communist government. In recent years, the HDZ has been sharply critical of the station, a point that emphasises the growing gap between the ruling party and liberal public opinion in Zagreb.

Voters in the capital, where a quarter of Croatia's 4.8 million people live, rejected the HDZ in municipal elections in 1995, but Mr Tudjman has refused to allow the opposition to appoint a mayor. Instead, he has used his right under Croatian law to veto opposition candidates for the job and appoint a member of his own party.

Exceptional Mortgage Deals - Talk To Us Now

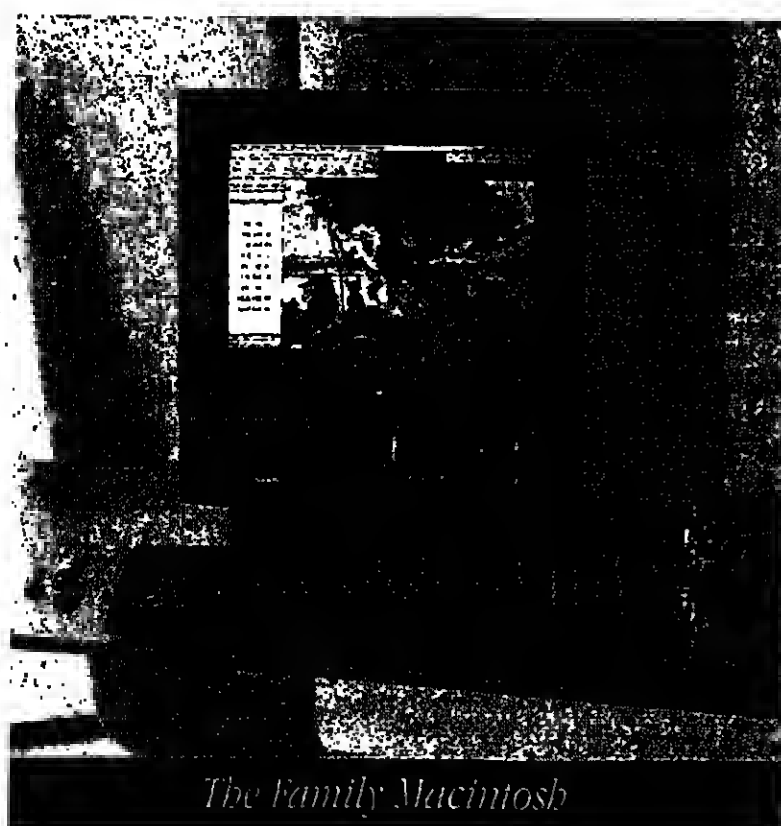
To find out more,
contact your
nearest branch.
Or call us FREE
on 0800 126 125.

LINES ARE OPEN: MON - SUN 8am - 9pm
PLEASE QUOTE CODE HOIN2501

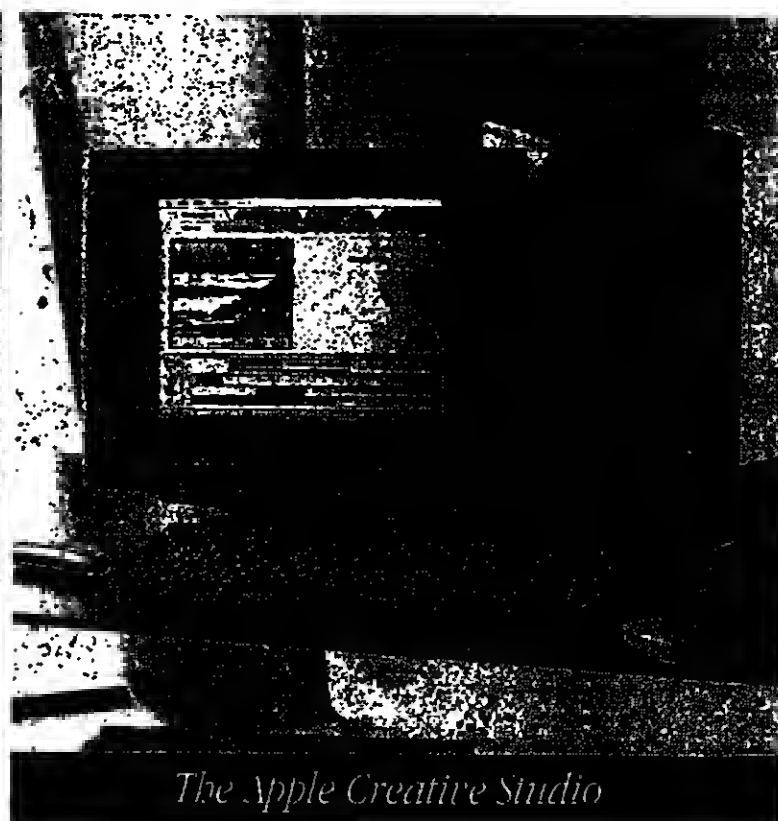
COVENTRY
BUILDING SOCIETY

Head Office: Coventry Building Society Economic House, PO Box 9, High Street,
Coventry CV1 5QN Telephone: Customer Services Coventry (01203) 839333

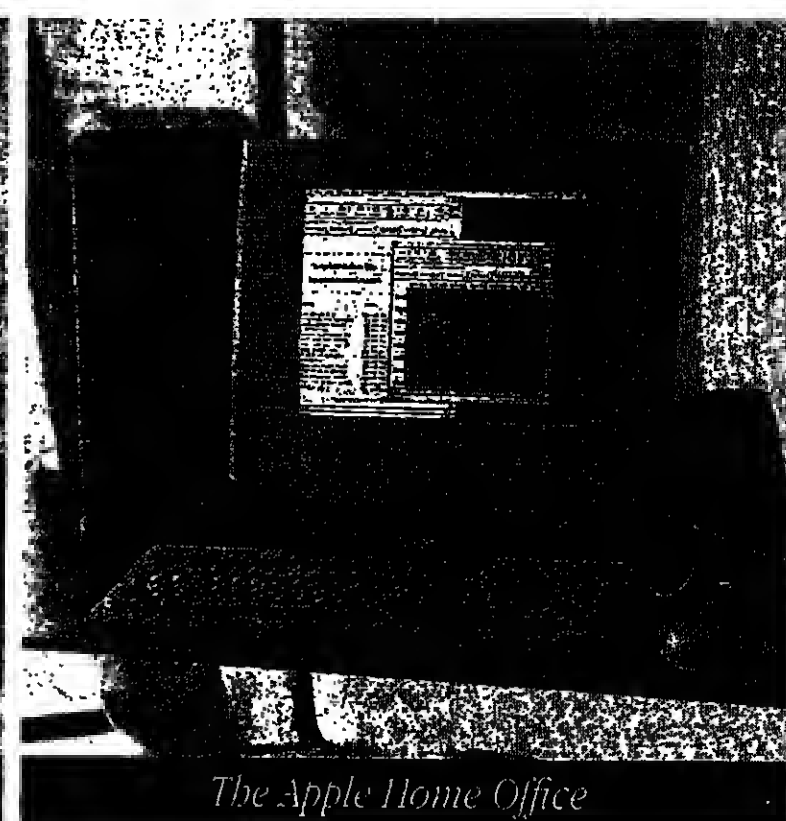
If you're tempted
by all those special offers
this January, our dealers
have something far better.



The Family Macintosh



The Apple Creative Studio



The Apple Home Office

*Special computers...



ceptional
Mortgage
Deals -
Talk To
Us Now

nd out more
ntact your
rest branch.
call us FREE
800 126 125

COVENTRY

international

Tycoon Tung names his dream team

Critics excluded from Hong Kong cabinet

Stephen Vines
Hong Kong

Tung Chee-hwa, who will head Hong Kong's first post-colonial government, yesterday unveiled the membership of his Executive Council or cabinet. The line up gives a strong indication of the sort of regime Mr Tung intends to run, after the colony's handover to China.

The cabinet is balanced between new and old order personalities and displays a sensitivity to fears that someone as rich as Mr Tung will be surrounded by fellow tycoons.

In the past colonial Executive Councils have always had a representative from the mighty Hongkong Bank and the big trading houses or hongs. Mr Tung's cabinet has no such person sitting at the table although he has taken in Charles Lee, a lawyer and former stock exchange chairman who is close to Li Ka-shing, the territory's richest man.

Half the members are businessmen, a couple of whom are rich but not as rich as Mr Tung, who used to head the Overseas Orient shipping group. By way of balance, the executive council for the first time has a trade unionist as member. He is Tam Yiu-chung, a stalwart of the pro-Peking trade union federation.

Among the rising stars of the new order is Leung Chun-ying, who many people view as a successor to Mr Tung. Mr Leung has established a highly successful property conglomerate which married his considerable entrepreneurial skills to his impeccable political connections in Peking.

While Mr Leung represents the most visible face of the new order, Mr Tung has taken on board Chung Sze-yuen, one of the most famous veterans of the old order. Sir Sze-yuen served as the most senior executive councillor during the 1980s and played an influential role during the negotiations for the change of Hong Kong's sovereignty.

Like three other members of the Tung cabinet, Sir Sze-yuen seems to have abandoned the use of his knighthood. Dame Rosanna Wong, who was ennobled in the last honours list,



Tung Chee-hwa: Supporting 'traditional Chinese values'

and is only one of two members of the Patten cabinet to survive, has also dropped her new title. The former Chief Justice, Sir Tiliang Yang, became plain Mr Yang when he joined the so called election race which was won by Mr Tung. He appears to have been rewarded for his efforts to give credibility to the election.

Significantly there are no members of the new cabinet

who could be described as providing a bridge to critics of the incoming government, especially the Democratic Party which commands majority popular support.

Mr Tung is clearly staking out a position for himself as a firm defender of Peking's policy. In a landmark speech on Thursday night he outlined a position of supporting what he described as "traditional Chinese values", rejecting "political partisanship which creates gridlock" and leads to decisions "based on short term expediency rather than the long term interest of the people".

He defended the controversial recommendation of a Chinese advisory committee to amend civil rights legislation and restore old colonial powers limiting the right of assembly and association as "legalistic and technical in nature and not controversial".

Mr Tung's style in dealing with critics oscillates between the avuncular and behaving remarkably like Chinese officials who are unaccustomed to being questioned.

Under questioning following his Thursday night speech, Mr Tung turned on one reporter, saying that it did not matter what he believed because the position outlined by himself was the one he believed in and that was what mattered.

Governor Chris Patten had Mr Tung in his cabinet as the nominal voice of opposition. Mr Tung has presumably learned something from this experiment and decided not to repeat it.



Chain gang: Protesters outside Tung Chee-hwa's office in Hong Kong yesterday liken Peking's plans to curb civil liberties in the colony with the purges during China's Cultural Revolution. Photograph: Reuters

Peking's supertroops ready to go

Teresa Poole
Peking

Is it Superman? Is it a cat burglar? No, it's a soldier of the People's Liberation Army, ready for his posting to Hong Kong.

After a year of special training, the mainland troops destined for the PLA's Hong Kong garrison have been equipped with skills which appear to go beyond the expected call of duty.

The official *China Daily* yesterday announced: "Climbing to the top of a four-storey building in 12 seconds, not by the stairs but up the outside wall, aided only by safety ropes, is a requirement for every soldier."

Should any of these nimble soldiers be tempted by a life of crime, there should be no problem with the getaway car. "All drivers with the garrison must be able to squeeze through the crowded streets of Hong Kong in a right-hand drive vehicle, sometimes at speed, without violating any traffic rules," said the *China Daily*. This will be something of a novelty for military drivers who, clearly identifiable in China by their white number plates, are notorious on the mainland for disregarding all traffic regulations at will.

Language training in Cantonese and English, as well as lessons in Hong Kong's customs, lifestyles and manners have been part of the rigorous preparation.

All this is not so amusing for Hong Kong people, for whom the thought of thousands of mainland soldiers moving into the territory is unnerveing, to say the least. They are there, in theory, to safeguard national sovereignty, and when requested by the Hong Kong government to help maintain public order or provide disaster relief.

Hong Kong people are most worried, however, by clauses in the mainland's Garrison Law, passed on 30 December, which mean on-duty PLA personnel and vehicles cannot be inspected by Hong Kong police, and will come under the jurisdiction of China's Supreme People's Court if they commit civil offences.

CONDENSATION AND DAMP?



BEAT THEM WITH AN EBAC AND SAVE UP TO £50

Water on sills, mould, mildew, peeling wallpaper and damp are all signs of condensation problems; problems that can be controlled with an Ebac dehumidifier. Quiet, neat and economical to run, an Ebac Homedry has the power to pull up to 12 pints of excess moisture out of a home every day.

With £20 off the Homedry 440 and up to £50 off the Homedry 870 models during January, you won't find a better time to buy, or a better solution to condensation. So call in at your local stockist today.



Europe's best selling Dehumidifiers

Available from: Alders, Apollo 2000, Argos, Currys, Dickens, Electricity Plus, Euronics, Homebase, House of Fraser stores, Jersey Electricity, John Lewis Partnership, Marx Electricity Authority, Miller Bros., Norweb, Northern Electric, Northern Ireland Electricity, Selected Powerhouse Stores, Seaboard, Scottish Power Lifestyle Plus, Selected Co-ops, State of Guernsey Electricity, Tempo Electrical and Computer Superstores and all good electrical retailers.

For a brochure or further information: Telephone 01388 602602 or Email us on: tm@ebac.co.uk

Ebac Limited, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham DL14 9AL

Discounts are off manufacturers suggested retail prices. All offers subject to availability from participating stores.

Star-spangled chat show plugs the Kremlin line

Phil Reeves
Moscow

For the devoted viewer of that American institution, the late-night talk show, it comes as a surprise. There's the familiar set, the metropolitan skyline, sparkling with wicked nocturnal promise.

There's the host in the suit and tie, sitting behind a desk decorated by coffee cups and a pot of pencils. And there, too, is the guest, in an armchair, bawling against occasional interruptions from the band. In fact, until they open their mouths, there's nothing to remind you that this is not the Big Apple, but Moscow.

Russia's rapidly evolving television entertainment industry now has its own, strikingly similar, version of David Letterman and Jay Leno, using the format pioneered by the US King of Talk himself, Johnny Carson. The programme, *Dobry Veher* (Good Evening) was launched this month on Russian television by Video International Productions. After studying the US shows, they hired a popular young comic called Igor Ugonnikov, 25 writers, and a Russian circus hand leader, and set to work.

You might think success was assured, but the Russians were nervous. Russian audiences are still more conservative than their western counterparts. "It was a very big creative risk," said Alexander Akopov, the executive producer.

So far it has paid off. Preliminary figures suggest it is doing well, with 12 to 14 per cent of the potential night-time audience. The show is, however, still a far cry from the world of publicists, law suits and doubtful jokes that has been spawned by the murky ratings war between Leno and Letterman. "Our programme is more serious," said Mr Ugonnikov.

It's true. In one of his first shows, he did a "Top Ten" list, borrowing one of the most popular items on the Letterman Show. But unlike that great entertainer, it was not about the picaresque of the President, or the apparent guilt of OJ Simpson. He offered the "Top Ten reasons why Russians should not join Nato".

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Try the bigger, better, brighter Independent on Sunday tomorrow

There's an expanded news section with extra pages for the very best in comment and analysis - including Focus, a new in-depth look at the big stories of the week.

business

A new second section containing our unrivalled business and sports coverage.

spending

A new section full of news, features, ideas, and advice on travel, property, and money

real life

The section on the way we live today, spotlighting what's new and who's making news. Plus: The Critics - the week in the arts reviewed

THE SUNDAY REVIEW



Now includes full seven-day TV listings within Sunday Preview, a comprehensive critical guide to the week's television and radio

Plus: The 100 Greatest Paintings in Britain today, and The New Science of Health - find out how scientists could improve your sex life

AND FREE THIS WEEK:

Improve your body and your self-esteem with FULL VOICE the first issue of the new Body Shop magazine.

Fancy some swan-apping or bog snorkelling? Read our special alternative guide to the events of 1997, published in association with Guinness

DON'T MISS THE NEW INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY - GET IT TOMORROW

مكتبة الامم

and you won't have to go far to find them.

cover just how special the Macintosh Performa range is at your local Apple Dealer today and claim £200 back if you buy a Macintosh Performa 5400 or 6400 before the end of January.*

Computers
mer St, London

305

Harrods
3rd Floor,
rompton Rd, London

1234

Systems
hawk Mews, London

49 8222

Hot*

2, 10 William Rd,
on NW1 3EN

383 2727

omasonic Computer
tre

omasonic House,
he Crest, Hendon, London

74 ZHW

81 203 8989

computer Warehouse*

Hatton St, London NW8 8PR

71 724 4104

asteiner Technologies

222 Sterling Way, Edmonton,

ondon N18 2YZ

381 345 6000

icro Anvika

Chenies St, London

WE1E 7ET

011 636 2547

MicroRent

St. Marks Studios,

Chillingworth Rd, London

N7 8QJ

0171 700 4848

Mygate*

Unit 11,

Southbrook Industrial Estate,

Southbrook Rd,

London SE12 8LG

0800 0181424

PM Systems

82 Garratt Lane, London

NW17 0LZ

0181 672 1241

ystem Solutions

he Desktop Centre,

7-19 Blackwater St,

London SE22 8RS

0181 693 3355

asha Computers

20 Chiswick High Rd,

Chiswick, London W4 1PU

0181 994 7424

Tasha Computers

290 Kensington High St,
London W14 RNZ

0171 602 9444

Trams

47-51 Gillingham St,
London SW1V 1HS

0171 544 1300

SOUTH EAST

1st Temptation Computers

29/30 Watling St, Canterbury

01227 764455

ADM Computing

24 Lower Bridge St, Canterbury

01227 450200

ApplePoint Thames Valley

1 Mackenzie St, High St, Slough

01753 518866

CIC Software

26 High St, Mersham, Redhill

01737 644829

Clocktower

Storford Rd, Little Hadham

01279 771038

Computer Sense

Grovelands Business Centre,
Boundary Way,

Hemel Hempstead

01442 252555

Datacore Consultants

319a Broomfield Rd, Chelmsford

01245 261578

GDN Associates

23 Manor Rd, Hastings

01424 714110

Express Graphics Systems

Unit 14, Pelham Court
Business Centre, Crawley

01293 614616

Flame

12 Kings Park, Primrose Hill,
Kings Langley

01923 270171

Hussey & Greaves

94 Hutton Rd, Shenfield,
Brentwood

01277 226262

MacLine*

Mill House, Mill Lane,
Carshalton

0181 401 1111

MacWarehouse*

Unit 6, Wolsey Business Park,
Tolpits Lane, Watford

0800 801936

Network Computer
Consultants

Farncombe House,
16 Market St, Lewes

01273 487702

ME Electronics

4 Weighbridge Row,
Cardiff Rd, Reading

01734 500551

Network Professional

110 Queens Rd, Brighton

01273 748083

Performance Direct*

Kingfisher House,
160-162 High St, Egham

01784 477088

Solutions Incorporated

200 Portland Rd, Hove

01273 203323

SRS Systems

Unit 1 Belvue Business Centre,
Belvue Rd, Northolt

0181 841 1800

Thames Valley Systems

1 Southern Court, South St,
Reading

0118 958 1829

The Mac Express

10 Lawrence Rd, West Wickham

0181 462 5626

The Mac Zone*

Genesis House, Merrow Lane,
Guildford

0800 393696

Universal Advanced Technology

Ullswater Crescent Industrial
Estate, Marpit Lane,
Coulson

0181 763 5000

Viewdata Computing

Central House, 124 High St,
Hampton Hill

0181 943 3922

SOUTH

Island Computer Systems

41 Horsebridge Hill,
Parkhurst, Isle of Wight

01983 821717

Lan-U-Like

12a Sandheath Industrial
Estate, Old Brickyard Rd,
Sandheath, Fordingbridge

01425 657905

The Music Corporation

The Market Place, Ringwood

01425 470007

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Guersey Computers

33 Commercial Arcade,
St. Peter Port

01481 728738

EAST ANGLIA

AppleCentre Cambridge
Unit 5, Clifton Court, Cambridge

01223 247111

Electronics for Publishing

Suite 2, The Old Church,
St. Matthews Rd, Norwich

01603 767574

Hussey & Knights

Graphics House, 60 Bethel St,
Norwich

01603 761030

Peterborough Computer Systems

5 Milnyard Square, Bakewell Rd,
Orton Southgate, Peterborough

01733 370606

SOUTH WEST

AM Micro Distribution

Roman Court,
48 New North Rd, Exeter

01392 426473

Computer Capability

14 Oaktree Place, Matford

01392 207620

LP & TS Publishing

14 Camelot Court, Somerton

01458 274528

Tantra Computers

48 Kensington Park Rd, Bristol

0117 972 4708

Tavy Typesetting

42 Brook St, Tavistock

01822 615007

Servo Computer Services

6 Manaton Court,
Manaton Close,
Maford Business Park, Exeter

01392 201300

Western Computers

Victoria House, Temple Gate,
Bristol

0117 922 5661

MIDLANDS

Adams Computers

High St, Sutton Coldfield

0121 354 9222

Apple Centre Nottingham

Queens Court, Lenton Lane,
Nottingham

0115 950 5352

Bedford Computers

31-33 Tavistock St, Bedford

01234 271113

C J Graphic Supplies

90 Newtown Row, Birmingham

0121 333 3448

Celtip Computers

Lower Mill St, Kidderminster

01562 822222

Gordon Harwood*

Computers
New St, Alfreton

01773 836781

Jigsaw Systems*

The Old Mill, High Church St,
Nottingham

0115 942 2990

Leicester Computer Centre

1 Jarrom St, Leicester

0116 255 6268

PCM Technologies

Midland House,
3rd Floor, New Rd, Halesowen

0121 585 0191

Sidwell Technology

48 Dorridge Rd, Dorridge,
Solihull

01564 775775

Tack Associates

18 Chester Rd North,
Sutton Coldfield

0121 353 7625

WALES

Blaenachddu Computer Centre

Capel Iwan, Newcastle Emlyn,
Carmarthenshire

01559 371219

Copystat (Cardiff)

Norbury Rd, Fairwater, Cardiff

01222 566133

Hi-Mach UK

The Church House,
Hawkesbury Rd, Buckley

01244 549563

MacWestern

Longcross Court,
47 Newport Rd, Cardiff

01222 465656

Vonian Print Technologies

The Media Centre,
Ivor House, Bridge St, Cardiff

01222 222555

NORTHERN IRELAND

CEM Computers

CEM House,
Victoria Business Park,
West Bank Rd, Belfast

01232 556677

Office Overload

24 William St, Dungannon

01868 727323

Firebird

Unit 67 Enterprise House,
Balloo Avenue, Balloo
Industrial Estate, Bangor

01247 274141

NORTH

ABC Microcore

99 High St, Gosforth,
Newcastle Upon Tyne

0191 213 1212

AppleCentre Warrington

Gemini Business Park,
244 Europa Boulevard,
Westbrook, Warrington

01925 444999

3Dabs Direct*

Direct House,
30 Wingates Industrial Park,
West Houghton, Bolton

0800 680000

Direct Memory

98 Grosvenor St, All Saints,
Manchester

0161 274 4404

F H Brown

Mary St, Manchester

0161 661 1000

F H Brown

Elmhurst Lane, Dodworth,
Barnsley

01226 777111

F H Brown

Farrington Rd, Burnley

01282 830000

Hi-Tec Computer Services

Cliffe House, Prospect Rd,
Bradford

Best

The gunmen who had surrounded Uday, the son of Saddam Hussein, in an ambush last month had learned that he had Uday's best friend, a wealthy businessman, as a bodyguard. As he drove to the house where the party was taking place, they pulled his white Mercedes with bullets. The mechanics of the assassination attempt, the most serious in Iraq since Saddam Hussein took power, were spelled out in the Arab daily al-Hayat, starting from the Baghdad newspaper on Thursday. The assassination was the nephew of a general who was executed by the Iraqi leader in 1980, provided the intelligence covering the whereabouts of Uday. In a telephone interview, one of those involved in the plot said that Uday, a former soldier in the palace guard, was Uday's closest friend and drinking companion. Uday, known as Uday, said he had learned through him that on 12 December Uday was attending a party in Moscow.

Blood of forgotten thousands stains birth of new nations

When Edwin Lutyens drew up his plans for New Delhi, he made ample provision for great public spectacles to glorify the Raj - notably the Rajpath, the broad highway where tomorrow millions of Indians will gather to celebrate the end of British rule and the founding of the Republic.

This year, the annual Republic Day Parade has special significance as it also marks the 50th anniversary of independence. For the past few weeks there have been daily rehearsals on the Rajpath, with thousands of schoolchildren waving flags and marching to music. It has been cheerful and colourful, and because of the setting, certainly not lacking in several shades of irony.

At the eastern end of the Rajpath, looming over the festivities, is the massive shape of India Gate, one of Delhi's imposing memorials to the days of the Raj. India Gate is a triumphal arch, 40 metres high, bearing the inscription "To the Dead of the Indian Armies who fell and are honoured in France and Flanders, Mesopotamia, East Africa and Gallipoli". Beneath, chiselled into the red sandstone and covering the whole of the great monument, are the names of 85,000 soldiers who died for the British Empire in the First World War.

For anyone raised on Kipling's tales of the Raj, the names alone stir the blood: 3rd Skinner Horse, Rajput Light Infantry, 129th Baluchis, 13 Frontier Force Rifles; and the military ranks, subadars and sepoy and havildars; and above all, the names of the men, distinctively Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and British. There is history in those stones that has a special resonance today. The Indian Army, raised by the British on the subcontinent was a truly great military force. In the Second World War it played a decisive role in defeating the Japanese; and at that time, with two and a half million men under arms, it was the largest volunteer army ever raised anywhere. Another measure of its greatness was the way in which all the Indian communities, Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Christian, served and fought together in harmony.

Yet, less than two years after the Second World War victory parades, that harmony was shattered. As the independence movement gathered strength, it became clear that India's large Muslim minority would never agree to be ruled by the Hindu majority and demanded its own Muslim state, Pakistan.



As India celebrates the 50th anniversary of its independence from Britain, Julian Pettifer (left) examines the horrors of partition - in which half a million died - and the unhappy history of Pakistan

When the multitude gathers at the Rajpath tomorrow, someone will perhaps look at the long lists of war dead and remember that the independence and the creation of the Republic they have come to celebrate was accompanied by far greater loss of life than that recorded on the India Gate.

For India and for the Indian Army, partition was a devastating event. As the nation divided along communal and religious lines, so did the Army. A military machine that had taken 200 years to build was split apart in a matter of months. To compound the agony, the final duty demanded of the Army was to police the vast exchange of populations - Muslims to Pakistan and Hindus to India - that accompanied partition. It is thought that 10 million people fled their homes and embarked upon the greatest migration the world has ever seen.

Looking at what we have done, do we have the right to celebrate?

The Army was unable to curb the intercommunal violence in which up to half a million died; and they have no memorial. If anyone thinks that there is reason in this sad tale for independence celebrations in India to be a little muted, how much greater cause is there for Pakistan to put away the hunting.

In Karachi, a solemn ceremony will be held at the Mausoleum of Pakistan's founder, Mohammed Ali Jinnah. Jinnah died only a year after partition. If he had lived, it is possible that Pakistan might have had a happier infancy. The nation is about to go to the polls, the latest contortion in 50 years of political and social turmoil, a succession of military coups, assassinations and the dismissal of three civilian governments in the past eight years. No one seems to think that the upcoming election will solve anything. The Prime Minister in the caretaker government, Malik Meraj Khalid, has questioned whether there is any reason whatever to celebrate the nation's Golden Jubilee.

phatic "no" is Karachi's best known gadfly, Ardeshir Cowage. Writing in the leading broadsheet, he concluded that 50 years after the birth of democracy there is nothing to shout about. "In what sort of democracy," he asks, "do known robbers, looters of public wealth, breachers of trust, misappropriators of widows and orphans funds, contest election to Parliament?"

That of course is a rhetorical question; but he fact that it is so heavily posed would suggest, that at a dismal time, there is at least one thing worth celebrating: a resoundingly free press. Julian Pettifer reports for Asiafile at 11.30am today on BBC Radio 4.

"Looking back at what we have done in the past fifty years," he said, "do we have the right to celebrate?" Among those who would give an em-



People in Bombay celebrating independence from Britain in 1947. Far more people died the Republic than are recorded on India's memorial for Second World War dead



significant shorts

Strikers bring French cities to a standstill

A strike by transport workers in support of a claim for retirement at 55 paralysed many French cities. Lille, Marseilles, Strasbourg, Toulouse and Nice had no transport; other cities had a limited service. Paris, where the authorities negotiated a no-strike bonus after the 1995 strikes, was relatively unaffected. Mary Dejesky - Paris

Youth admits to carjack killing

Michael LaSane, 17, pleaded guilty to suffocating Kathleen Weinstein, a teacher, admitting it was his voice on a cassette that his victim recorded secretly during a carjacking. He faces 30 years' jail. AP - Toms River, New Jersey

Yeltsin misses another day

President Boris Yeltsin, who is recuperating from pneumonia, did not go to work for a second day yesterday as the opposition threatened to continue efforts to oust him by trying to stall approval of the national budget. AP - Moscow

Gang murders 15 in attack on Algerian farm

An armed group attacked a farm on the southern edge of the Algerian capital, slitting the throats of 15 people. The latest violence came hours before President Liamine Zeroual was to address the nation on whether he still planned legislative elections by June. AP - Algiers

Bungee-jump woman dies

A bungee jumper practising for the Super Bowl football championship halftime show was killed when she hit her head on the Superdome stadium's floor during the routine. She suffered massive head injuries. AP - New Orleans

Minister's honest rouble

Russia's Interior Minister, Anatoly Kulikov, won his libel suit against Alexander Lebed, who had accused him of embezzling government money intended for breakaway Chechnya. Mr Kulikov was awarded the symbolic damages he had sought: one rouble, worth about 0.001p. AP - Moscow

SMOKING CAUSES HEART
Chief Medical Officers' Warning
5 mg Tar, 0.1 mg Nicotine

Best friend led assassins to Saddam's son

The gunmen who badly wounded Uday, the son of Saddam Hussein, in an ambush last month had learned through Uday's best friend that he had organised a party in a wealthy suburb of Baghdad. As he drove to the house where the party was taking place, they riddled his white Mercedes with bullets.

The mechanics of the assassination attempt, the most serious in Iraq since Saddam Hussein took power, were spelled out in the Arab daily *al-Hayat* yesterday. It confirms, as exclusively revealed by *The Independent* on Thursday, that Ra'ad al-Hazaa, the nephew of a general who was executed by the Iraqi leader in 1980, provided the intelligence concerning the whereabouts of Uday.

In a telephone interview, one of those involved in the plot said that Ra'ad al-Hazaa, a former officer in the palace guard, knew Uday's closest friend and drinking companion, Lu'ay Kharallah Tulfah.

Ra'ad learned through him that on 12 December Uday was intending to hold what he called "a girls party" in Mansur,

Ambush throws sinister light on bloody politics of Iraq's elite, writes Patrick Cockburn

a wealthy district in Baghdad.

A group called al-Nadha, formed by students in Baghdad in 1991, had four men on call who made up the ambush team. Uday had two cars, both white Mercedes, with him which were filled with bodyguards.

However, the guards were caught by surprise by the attack and were unable to respond. The would-be assassins escaped in a Toyota and a pick-up.

Al-Nadha claims that the party fled into Iraq's western desert where they took refuge with an Arab tribe. Ra'ad al-Hazaa joined them there. They then fled to Jordan and then on to the United Arab Emirates. From there they reached Europe.

The group flatly denies that the gunmen entered Iraq, which would be the most obvious

refuge for anybody fleeing from Baghdad.

This account of the flight is unconvincing, however, and it may be an attempt to shield the Iraqis, from whom Iraq is demanding the return of the men who tried to kill Uday.

Although Iraq had no prior knowledge of the assassination it is embarrassed about giving sanctuary to attempted assassins. To travel west into Jordan through the desert is an arduous journey. It is also extremely difficult for Iraqis to get visas to travel to Europe.

The politics of Saddam Hussein's inner family have become increasingly bloodthirsty in recent years.

Ra'ad al-Hazaa was seeking revenge for his uncle who was executed in 1990 for criticising the regime. Lu'ay, the boon companion of Uday, also played a role in a ferocious family row in 1995, when he quarrelled with Wabban, one of Uday's uncles, at a party in Baghdad. The row ended with Uday shooting his uncle in the leg.

Frightened that he would be Uday's next target, General



Family ties: Uday Hussein (left) with his father and brother Qusay, shortly before the ambush which may have paralysed him. Photograph: Reuters

Hussein Kamel, President Saddam's son-in-law, fled to Jordan. On his return to Baghdad in 1996 he was immediately murdered by Uday.

The ambush of Uday is significant because it is the first time that members of the inner circle of the regime have conspired with groups dedicated to its overthrow, to kill top leaders. This a dangerous develop-

ment for President Saddam, who has successfully survived seven years of sanctions after being humiliated in the Gulf War. The random violence of Uday has clearly

opened up rifts within the country's political elite.

Cairo (AP) - The Iraqi government has arrested almost 600 people since the assassination attempt last month against Saddam Hussein's son, a leading Iraqi dissident said yesterday.

More than 20 high-ranking officers and officials were among those detained in the capital, Baghdad, and other cities in central Iraq, a traditional stronghold of President Saddam, said Wafiq al-Samarra'i, a former chief of Iraqi army intelligence who now lives in Damascus, Syria. But Mr

Samarra'i discounted the impact of the arrests on the Iraqi opposition, much of which is based abroad.

"The people and the army do not want Saddam. The events prove it and more operations will take place," he said.

Since Uday Hussein was wounded on 12 December, Iraqi television has interviewed him on several occasions from his hospital bed, each time with his legs and much of his torso covered. Mr Samarra'i said in an interview that Uday may be paralysed, because the footage has never shown him moving his back or legs.

PARIS DAYS

French TV zapped by the trash barons

I can date precisely the moment I decided Paris was a hardship post. It was a Saturday at around 3.30pm (or 4.30pm in Britain). I was listening to the BBC World Service coverage of the third round of the FA Cup. Fifteen minutes before the end of the commentary game, and the round-up of final scores, a smug, schoolmistress voice, announced (with a tone of sadistic glee): "We are now going over to the world news in German..." Panic.

I located the signal from Radio Five Live, fighting to be heard on the medium wave above Radio Sofia and an Italian Euro-pop station. Like a member of the Resistance precariously tuned into coded wartime announcements from London, I decrypted the football scores, flut on the floor, ear pressed to a spluttering radio.

Paris has its compensations, but they are not audio-visual. The scandal of Saturday afternoons is compounded by the unsatisfactory situation on the television on Saturday evenings. And on Sunday evenings, Monday evenings, Tuesday evenings, Wednesday

evenings... We signed up for cable television, which offers 30 choices plus six pay-as-you-view channels. I was never much of a telly addict in Britain but began watching avidly in Paris, hoping to improve my French and my knowledge of France. I had been told the advent of cable, and privatisation of the principal television station, TFI, had improved quality and variety.

Not a bit of it. In a recent poll, 64 per cent of French people said they had experienced physical illness after watching television, through tedium or fury at being taken for *abrutis* (cretins); 66 per cent said television insulted their intelligence, compared to 36 per cent 10 years ago. Question: has French television got more stupid or the viewers more intelligent?

Here is a typical night's trawl through the Parisian cable menu. Zap, TFI, sinking in popularity but still watched by a third of viewers, is showing a dubbed American B-grade film from the 1980s, *Chérie, j'ai réincarné les gosses* (Honey, I've shrunk the kids). Zap, State-owned France 2 has a pedestrian game-show in which contestants guess the names of old French songs.

Zap, Canal Jimmy is showing *Famly Towers*, dubbed. Basil "il ne faut pas parler de la guerre" Fawly emerges bizarrely in his French spoken persona as a

rather sedate man. Zap, On the *Animal Channel*, hyenas are eating wildebeest, in washed-out, dubbed BBC footage from the 1980s.

Zap, Arte, the arts channel, watched by 1 per cent of viewers, has an implacably obscure German documentary on post-war refugees, with occasionally visible French subtitles.

Zap, State-owned France 3 has one of the bookish talking-heads shows which drive foreigners crazy. A reverential interviewer is taking the author through his latest work, with the book open in front of him. The assumption seems to be that viewers will also have the book open in front of them.

Zap, BBC Prime, a disappointing mish-mash of old and ancient, BBC drama and sitcoms, is showing *I, Claudius* (circa 1970). BBC1, still available in Brussels, was abolished in France a few years ago for a tangle of BBC copyright and French regulatory reasons. Zap, The *Animal Channel* again: Hyenas are now eating zebras!

There is no shortage of rubbish on British television. But where, one asks, is the French version of *Our*

Friends in the North or *House of Cards* or *Ballykissangel* or even *EastEnders*? France still has an inventive cinema, a thriving literature, its television, for all the posturing about the need to defend France from American teleculture, is a creative wasteland.

Coverage of news and current affairs is solid enough, much less domestically obsessed than British television and more willing to give complex subjects room to breathe. But there is a curious obsession, indoors and outdoors, with enormous, obsolete hand-held microphones, wielded sensuously like icecreams or phallic symbols.

Why is French television so bad? Professionals and commentators offer a mixture of reasons. Lack of funding. Over-regulation (films are banned before 11pm on Saturdays to encourage people to go to the cinema). There were too many years of government control (too few channels; then there was a flood of cable channels all at once, mostly under-resourced or seeking a quick profit).

None of this solves the mystery. This is an intelligent, inventive, culturally sophisticated, discriminating nation - which refuses to tolerate second-rate wine, second-rate green beans or second-rate trousers. Why does it create, and tolerate, second-rate television?

John Uchtfel



ES HEART DISEASE

Officers' Warning
0.5 mg Nicotine



Supermarkets take their place on memory lane

Enjoy that Saturday morning supermarket experience while you can. Thrill to the hum of trolley wheels on marble veneer. Delight in the lush tropical green of the fresh fruit and veg section. Enter a trance-like state to the crazy beeping of laser barcode scanners. Congratulate yourself on checking the pence-per-gram price of detergent (do not pause to ask what detergent is for). Buy yourself a treat of Belgian chocolates, in effect free because of the loyalty points amassed today.

Supermarket shopping is the great cultural phenomenon of our age, and all of life is there. Not just the petrol station, the chemist, the newsagent, the tobacconist, the bank, the electricity payment centre, but now the dentist, the gym, the café, the Post Office and soon the doctor, the church, the candlestick maker and anything else you might want to leave your house for. For most people it is still a chore, but it has become quite a pleasant chore; we do meet people we know there, we are nice to children and even chat to strangers. Young men may not, pace Sainsbury's advertising, meet young women, but for many people shopping in air-conditioned neon theme parks is a social experience.

We have reached the high point of a social revolution. Time was when supermarkets were seen as a threat, an invasion of American cultural imperialism. They would close down friendly local shops and kill off town centres, make us buy things we do not need and

force us to use our cars when really we would much rather walk. Much of this is still true, but we have learned to love them nevertheless.

So what does the future hold for Tesco, currently holding the upper hand, struggling with Sainsbury to keep ahead? Supermarkets as the complete invented community? No, it may be worse than they think: we may end up thinking with warm nostalgic affection of those days when we all used to congregate in the temples of materialism and bump into next-door neighbours at the fresh herbs counter. The real importance of developments in British grocery retailing is that the pace of change shows no sign of slackening: Tesco overtook Sainsbury because it continued to innovate while its rival stuck to a conservative vision of supermarket. Which means that today's supermarket will be out of date before we know it.

Just consider what previous cycles of social change tell us. In the middle of the last century the railways were a symbol of alienation, destroying cities, cutting through unspoiled countryside and bringing noise and crowds to peaceful places. Then they became central to our national life, and generations grew up imprinted with memories of slam doors and luggage racks and wooden-roofed stations. Now the golden age is over, and trains are a staple of British nostalgia, woven into the fabric of children's fiction and immortalised in toys. To many of our car-bound infants, "train" signifies a steam engine (which they



have never seen in real life) rather than an InterCity 125 or Eurostar.

Cars are undergoing a similar process. Initially they, too, were a threat, a dangerous nuisance and plaything of the rich, but even more than trains or supermarkets they have shaped our lives. Their golden age is also coming to an end, as we report today, with the Road Reduction Bill and the operation to remove Devon protesters from their bunkers. In the case of roads it is less clear how the car will eventually be replaced. But already the nostalgia is strong – not so much in the fetish for old cars but in the more prevalent dream of the open road. All car advertisements on television feature the mythical landscapes of deserted country roads or wide empty spaces.

The same cycle of hostility and hysteria, turning into enjoyment and engagement and finally declining into nostalgia, has marked all the great changes in British society. The suburb was also once a threat, spreading in ribbons across our countryside until it was tamed and then hemmed in by green belts and structure plans. Now we all live in suburbs, and the older kinds, the Thirties semis, have become one of the most desirable class of residence.

Comics, Enid Blyton books, television and now computer games – all were derided as crude and morally degraded. At the various stages of the cycle, the *Dandy* and *Beano* comics are now quaint wholesome relics. The menace of Dennis has been reincarnated in

Viz, while DC Thompson's superheroes now threaten the moral fibre of the nation's youth in the form of violent computer games.

As television is about to fragment into hundreds of channels, the common past experiences of *Morecambe and Wise* and *Dad's Army* exert an ever stronger nostalgic pull. It won't be long before Sonic the Hedgehog and Earthworm Jim become endearing museum pieces. How sweet and innocent will seem the idea of children glued to such simple entertainment for hours on end.

The same will happen to supermarkets when the home shopping revolution turns them into automated packing stations for home delivery fleets. Mind you, home shopping will only really take off when it actually becomes a computer game which satisfies yearnings not fulfilled in real supermarkets. If people can drive a trolley on their home computer which has straight wheels and can barge other trolleys out of the way, then people will start to prefer virtual shopping.

Then the Lottery Heritage people will fund the Supermarket Museum, displaying artefacts like shelf labels and carrier bags. It will give children the chance to dress up as checkout staff and try the mind-boggling chore of passing barcodes across beams of red light. And have a display to trace the history of trolley design.

So maybe Sainsbury's profits warning is a signal to start rethinking in a passing way of life. Have a historic Saturday morning!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Crucial questions only educational research can answer

Sir: Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, ("Nation of fools and Tolkien Readers", 22 January) believes research findings that effective leadership and an orderly atmosphere are important ingredients for successful schools are "blindingly obvious", and that money spent on such investigations is wasted.

About 15 years ago I lectured to around 200 teachers and suggested that school characteristics mattered in how successful schools were. There was almost unanimous disbelief. The only thing that mattered was the sort of homes the children came from. Well-spent research funding on school effectiveness has helped to turn that mistaken view around.

It is disappointing that authorities in the educational world still take such a dismissive view of research. Such an attitude was prevalent for many years at the Department of Education, but I had thought there had been a change. Evidently not.

The £50m spent on educational research is, in fact, pitifully small compared to the research budget of the Department of Health, but the questions are equally important.

If Chris Woodhead thinks research comes up with obvious results, perhaps he would like to predict the answers to the following questions, drawn from my own field of interest.

Have the anti-bullying packs recently introduced by the Department for Education made an impact on the frequency of bullying?

Do disruptive pupils do better if additional resources go a) to provide support within the mainstream school, b) to withdrawal units on the site of the mainstream school, or c) to separate withdrawal units?

Are there any methods of health education which influence the knowledge and/or behaviour of students in their use of drugs and alcohol?

What approaches in preschool education are most effective in achieving "reading readiness"?

Have increasing opportunities for schools to select children resulted, as is sometimes claimed, in the aggregation of "difficult" children in poorly resourced and managed schools?

Which type of children benefit,

and which do not, from placement in schools for children with emotional and behavioural problems?

If he cannot answer these questions with reliable evidence and thinks they are important, perhaps Chris Woodhead would encourage the Department for Education to increase its research budget rather than reduce it.

Professor PHILIP GRAHAM
Chair, National Children's Bureau
London EC1

Sir: Admirers of *The Lord of the Rings* will not be surprised to learn of Chris Woodhead's disdain for their favourite story. After all, it is about a quest to give up power. Frodo's journey to give up the Ring aptly describes Mr Woodhead's career

Yacht baffles US newcomer

Sir: The decision to commit £60m of public money to replace the Royal Yacht has me dumbfounded.

To me, a newcomer to this society – I moved to London from the United States last September – it seems that political decisions are entirely class (middle to upper) driven, and this is a result of the existence of the monarchy. There is a great emphasis on tradition for tradition's sake. Britain has a very rich history, but how relevant is this yacht today?

I accept your challenge (leading article, 13 January) to come up with better ways to spend the yacht money.

First, the London Underground. This government has apparently cut to the bone the budget for the Underground. This has caused more people to drive themselves to work, which increases traffic and pollution.

The education system in this country is so unfair it is heartbreaking. I wish Princess Diana would embrace this cause. There is quite enough work to do in this country to ensure that all children have access to excellent education.

Finally, there is the level of pollution that Londoners seem content to live with. The emissions that are legally allowed to come out of vehicle exhaust systems are appalling. In comparison, the air in New York City seems sparkling.

Let the Queen and private interests finance the Royal Yacht. There are more worthy causes.

ELIZABETH CLARKE
London SW7

LETTER from THE EDITOR

Alan Clark's selection as prospective Conservative candidate for Kensington and Chelsea is, apart from anything else, a great blow against ageism and for glamour. Clark is a brilliant man for putting you slightly off-balance, and one assumes that his success is not unconnected with wowed and dizzy Chelsea ladies of various ages. My most memorable experience of his wit was when, as a novice political journalist, I took him to Rules restaurant in London for lunch.

Rules serves its guests little that has not worn fur or feathers and left this life in a violent torrent of lead shot. I'd thought it just the sort of place for an aristocratic-looking rightwing minister, little knowing that, apart from being a keen vegetarian, Alan Clark is also passionately hostile to blood sports (except, of course, those involving heavily armoured military formations). He let me order first – the usual assortment of stamped-to-death young grouse, executed deer and so on – before quietly asking for spotted dick and custard as his starter... followed by spotted dick and custard... and then possibly the same for pudding.

Red-faced, mortified, and wholly off-balance, I was of course completely unable to remember the clever questions I had thought up for him.

Still on matters traditional, the most intriguing letter I've had this week came from (wait for it) King Arthur Pendragon, Honoured Pendragon, Glanbury Order of Druids, Titular Head of the Loyal Arthurian Warband, Champion

food handed round was a plate of something red on toast. It was only with a full mouth that I realised it was sun-dried tomato. Now, that was going too far. Tonight, I am equally happy to say, I will be strapping on an ancient kilt for a quiet and proper haggis-killing among friends. No photographs or pesto will be present.

Alan Clark let me order first – the usual stamped-to-death grouse and executed deer – before quietly asking for spotted dick and custard

of the Free Gorsedd of Caer Abiri... and so on, though he signs himself simply Arthur, Rex. He was asking us to fashion him to stand for Alder-shot in the election, and pointed out that money-raising is "a rather strange problem for me as I am in point of fact a religious renunciate having neither savings nor income..."

A ticklish problem. On the one hand, in this week of royal yachtery one wouldn't like to be thought churlishly unpatriotic – the "Loyal Arthurian Warband" sounds the sort of nonsense, anti-nanny-pammy outfit that would have Michael Portillo warbling on the morning radio. But then again, I'm afraid this paper takes its political independence very seriously and so, I regret, we won't be funding this interesting campaign. But readers who are concerned to see the Warband properly represented in the next Parliament can send donations to his majesty at 10, Sine Close, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 8HG.

Andrew Marr

QUOTE UNQUOTE

I am going to behave in a manner that is suitable and proper – Alan Clark, after being selected as the Tory candidate for Kensington and Chelsea

I liked him like a lot of women liked him – Angela Lockhart, pensioner, who took part in Mr Clark's selection

I would worry fundamentally about connecting any military-style activity directly with schools, even more so in the wake of Dunblane – Peter Miller, of the Secondary Heads Association, on Government plans to give every schoolchild the chance to become a military cadet

I think the fact you are learning team work, respect for others and for other things will tempt you away from the use of guns – Michael Portillo, Defence Secretary

We treat our children as bothhouse plants to be forced into maturity before their time – Kenneth Minogue, Professor of Political Science at the London School of Economics

If radio stations were to blacklist every artist who has dabbled with drugs there would be a kind of hush all over the world – Boy George, pop star

I had no idea who Chris Evans was – Elizabeth Sorrell, 70, whose car was involved in a minor collision with the errant DJ's vehicle

Struggle to help stricken island

Sir: As a former Governor of Montserrat I am, like Tony Foster (letter, 18 January) deeply concerned at the plight of the Montserratians still living in temporary accommodation 16 months since the volcano first erupted.

But the implications of his reference to the "Governor in [his] chauffeur-driven Range Rover" are unkind and misplaced. Since the 1960s Montserrat has been run by an elected local government of Montserratians with the Governor retaining only limited special responsibilities. During the time of the volcano decision-making has been largely in their hands. They appear to have been vacillating, incompetent and over-optimistic, particularly in respect of the redevelopment of the safe zone and in making provision for the homeless.

In such circumstances, as I know myself, the Governor can only persuade and advise and obtain as much assistance from the British government as he can.

A new government has now been elected in its turn, and £25m (not £23m), has been allocated to enable the island to continue to be inhabited. It is to be hoped the British government's concern that the £25m should be well spent will result not in over-elaborate planning procedures but in their being willing to exert more authority and direction than hitherto over the Montserrat government for the welfare of Her Majesty's Montserratian subjects.

I understand that some consideration was given to suspending the Constitution to provide some more effective non-elected decision-making machinery when the previous government's term expired. Montserratians appear not to have wanted this. Let us hope that they will not regret the trust which they continue to place in their elected representatives.

DAVID TAYLOR
London SW13

We back Liverpool

Sir: As a local boy (albeit from the other side of the Mersey) Andrew Whittam-Smith (article, 20 January) should know better than to cite Royal Insurance as a financial operation that has left Liverpool. Royal Insurance (now Royal & Sun Alliance) maintains a substantial presence in Liverpool, as it has done since 1845, and is currently among the largest five employers in the city. The head offices of two of the group's principal operating divisions are based in the city.

ANTHONY ANNAKIN-SMITH
Communications Manager
Royal & Sun Alliance
Liverpool

Seeking a solution to land mines

Sir: In the recent concern over land mines, one area which has received less attention than it deserves is that of ridding the world of abandoned land mines. It is estimated that 50 million such devices now litter some 60 countries and that they kill 10,000 people annually.

Current work to remove those mines is slow and expensive in human and financial terms. The key to improvement is quicker, safer and more cost-effective methods of detecting the devices. The Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) sees this as nothing less than a humanitarian imperative seeking a technical solution and in October last year brought together over 100 experts from 20 countries to seek ways of improving detection methods.

The use of modern electronic technology shows promise and the collaboration which is likely to result from the conference may well prove a turning point. As the largest professional organisation in Europe, the IEE feels it has a social responsibility to, in effect, challenge the engineering community to tackle this appalling problem. The support of governments and industry could do much to hasten the process.

DR JOHN C WILLIAMS
Secretary
The Institution of Electrical Engineers
London WC2

Sir: Tony Barber's report "Britain backs US plan for global ban on landmines" (21 January) makes me question the true intentions of Britain, the United States and France, all of whom possess nuclear weapons.

Whilst a worldwide ban on landmines is urgently required, using the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva as the forum seems to us a cynical attempt to gum up its already full agenda.

The nuclear weapons states are under increasing pressure at the CD to fulfil their obligations under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to disarm. Introducing the landmines issue could cause division at the CD so that no progress is made on any issue.

If the British, American and French governments are serious about banning landmines worldwide a special conference could be convened or they could take their support to the next International Conference on Landmines, to be held in Mozambique next month.

DAVE KNIGHT
Chair, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
London N7



Saddam greets his people – but has he betrayed them?

Blame Saddam for Iraq's sanctions plight

Sir: The letter "Need to reassess Iraq sanctions" (20 January) blames United Nations sanctions for the suffering of the Iraqi people. Their plight results directly from Saddam Hussein's callous and belligerent rule.

The UN has reacted with humane understanding in softening sanctions sometimes blunt force although Saddam Hussein has turned a deaf ear to his people's cries. UN Security Council Resolution 986, offered to Saddam in April 1995 but only implemented this December because of his intransigence, permits Iraq to export \$2bn of oil over 180 days on a renewable basis to pay for food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies, with the stipulation that this aid be equitably distributed.

Sanctions against Iraq are justified by the threat Saddam Hussein's regime continues to pose to international peace and security. The UN has established a Special Commission (Unscm) under Security Council Resolution 687 to investigate Iraq's weapons programmes. Saddam has frequently denied the inspectors free access to sites. Because Saddam Hussein has not allowed Unscm to fulfil its mandate, sanctions continue to be enforced.

The Iraqi leader holds the key to free his people from their unnecessary affliction. An attempt to attribute the Iraqi people's anguish to United Nations sanctions lets Saddam Hussein off the hook.

ERIC BERMAN

Bugging Bill horrifies Catholics

Sir: I hope your headline, "Bleak outlook for bugging Bill" (24 January) means that it will be much more closely scrutinised when it returns to Parliament.

I am not the only Catholic to feel horrified that the proposed law would give our police the power to hug any sacramental confessions made to a Catholic priest. A Home Office spokeswoman has confirmed this, saying that "there are no loopholes and exemptions at the moment".

Whatever happened to freedom of religion? A Catholic priest may never reveal what is said to him under the

seal of confession. A priest in Co Durham went to prison in the last century for refusing to tell a court what a suspect had said to him in confession.

Now many ordinary innocent Catholics would be denied the guaranteed confidentiality that is their right; no one would know when or where legal bugging is to take place. Catholic police officers would experience questions of conscience in these new duties.

HUGH LINDSAY
Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria
The writer was Catholic Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, 1974-1992

Britons in Paris

Sir: The two British designers currently taking the Paris couture world by storm are not the first in this field. Born in Lincolnshire in the mid-1850s, Frederick Worth, a successful dressmaker in London, tried his luck in Paris and became an instant success with some of the greatest beauties in the land.

Many of the fabulous dresses worn by the Empress Eugénie and her ladies in paintings by Winterhalter are by Worth, and it is said that he invented – or at least popularised – the crinoline. The House of Worth continued to flourish both in Paris and in London for over 100 years, and is still remembered today in the scent "Je Reviens".

SARA DICK-READ

Awkward squad

Sir: At last, an educational policy I can support! ("Plan to raise school cadets", 23 January). Thirty-five years ago my experience in the school cadets taught me a lot. Social skills – how to subvert orders and avoid detection; leadership skills – how to get your mates to join in the latest scam; a sense of camaraderie – pride in being termed the "sod squad". And as for the weapons training, it's quite a skill to explode field telephones when you're meant to be firing at targets.

Did Mr Major have similar formative experiences at school?

CHRIS WATKINS
London N19

Bone idlers

For millennia, our ancestors achieved nothing. How on earth did it happen?

david aaronovitch

Every nine months or so some archaeologist discovers that our oldest ancestors are even older than we had already believed. This week's news was that recently discovered stone tools were made nearly 300,000 years earlier than the oldest previous finds. Flakes of rock with chipped edges, used for chopping, and "pounded" pieces (like anvils), found in Ethiopia are something like 2.6 million years old.

This is depressing. It effectively extends by several hundred millennia the period in which our forefathers and mothers managed to avoid any technological innovation whatsoever. And there were already 2 million years in which they achieved very little indeed.

How on earth can this be? We are, after all, talking about a very, very long time. It is only 10,000 years since crops were first grown, 5,000 years since humans smelted metal, 60 since TV was invented, 124 months since *The Independent* was first published – such achievements in such a short period! Yet in 2 million years our forefathers failed to get beyond stone chips. Even by accident. You might have thought that somewhere in those vast tracts of time, somebody falling off a mountain, and saved by her voluminous squirrel skins, would have passed on the secret of parachuting. But no. How come?

Were they just too busy? Hunting and gathering can be time-consuming; skimming a mammoth takes a lot of energy; grubbing around for roots, or blackberrying, are not conducive to watching carefully while Ug demonstrates gliding with two leaves and a long stick. But in that case, how come things ever changed?

Explanation two is that most humans, far from being the restless innovators of popular myth, are in fact deeply conservative. Having been tutored in a perfectly efficient flaking method which was good enough for their parents, why change? Anyone who doubts the joint power of nostalgia and inertia should consider this week's call for a return of cadet forces in schools, and the commissioning of a new royal yacht.

But it takes relatively few innovators to change life completely for everyone else. So enter Dr Steven Mithen, proponent of cognitive archaeology and author of the recently



published *Prehistory of the Mind*. Dr Mithen's view is that, until a sudden explosion of intelligence – somewhere between 100,000 and 30,000 years ago – our ancestors were just too stupid. They had "modular intelligences", in which technical intelligence was separated from social intelligence (i.e. you could tie your shoe, if shown, but you couldn't understand knots). Then language itself became a vehicle for thought (before then, the best that humanoids could do was gossip – which is also, of course, the distinction between a tabloid and a broadsheet newspaper). Metaphor was loosed upon the world.

There are still a couple of problems that Dr Mithen's explanation fails to iron out. The first is how his theory deals with the flaked tools in the first place. Someone furry must have worked out the principles involved, and chipped that cobble. So why couldn't the descendants of that innovator repeat the trick, but with writing, or pop music?

The other difficulty is provided by the example of ancient Egypt. After the development (by about 2400BC) of building skills sophisticated enough to create the Pyramids, the Pharaohs and their subjects did not all for 2 millennia. Their religion did not change, their art did not change, their technology did not change, for 2,000 years. Whilst there may have been an improved formula for henna, or a slightly tastier recipe for baboon in crocodile sauce, there was no steam engine, spinning jenny, or that agricultural thing for lifting turnips that you always learned about at school. It was the kind of civilisation that makes Michael Portillo look like a mad progressive.

Personally, I blame the climate. The valley of the Nile is temperate and warm. Crops grow easily, lotuses wave in the breeze (I think), and the view is perfect. Why should the temple artist spend an extra hour trying out a new way of representing the ibis-headed god, Thoth, when he could paint an old Thoth in his sleep, and then get back to his kohl-eyed mistress by the banks of the great river? Isn't this why Isambard Kingdom Brunel was not a Fijian, nor Marconi a Sri Lankan? Rain-lashed, windswept, they had nothing better to do than to improve things.

The 'broken dagger' club cuts up rough

by Christopher Bellamy

A rumour was going round Whitehall last week that a new and exclusive club has been formed. All its members are former members of the British Special Forces – the SAS, the Special Boat Service and other covert operators known to the Navy as "sneaky heavy". But they have either been thrown out of the special forces for refusing to sign new contracts committing them to a lifetime of silence, or have been banned from the elite units' bases. Rumour has it the club is called "broken dagger", after the winged dagger of the SAS.

This week an official in the Ministry of Defence's security directorate wrote to more than two dozen former members of the Special Forces who have published details of their experiences, hailing them from attending reunions on ministry property, in case they gathered material for more books or television programmes. Last year the MoD introduced new contracts for serving special forces personnel designed to prevent them publishing accounts of their work or helping with documentaries. The ban on attending regimental reunions is probably the MoD's final attempt to shut the stable door after a series of best-selling books destroyed much of the mystique and secrecy surrounding covert operations. Let us hope so, anyway.

"Special Forces" refers to all the units under the Director of Special Forces, an army brigadier. They include the Army's SAS, which comprises one regular, and two TA units (about 800 men in all); the Marines' Special Boat Service (about 150 strong); and a number of smaller units – 14 Company of the Army Intelligence Corps and certain Royal Signals and RAF personnel.

A number of manuscripts are being read by the MoD at the moment. The next one to be published, due on 27 March, will be by Sarah Ford, on the role of women in 14 Intelligence Company in Northern Ireland.

The ban on authors' visiting bases has the overwhelming support of serving members of the Special Forces, particularly the lower ranks, who have become increasingly resentful of the success of a few former members who have earned large sums of money. Some of the books are gripping, and fully deserve their success; others are tedious, the realm, an army officer said yesterday, of "train spotters". The most successful of the writers, Andy McNab, has made an estimated £5m from his book *Bravo Two Zero*, about the fate of an eight-man patrol behind Iraqi lines in the Gulf war.

This week's fuss about the ban on visiting special forces bases obscured a more interesting point. According to



They've refused to promise a lifetime of silence and they've been banned from their units' bases. But there are more books on the Special Forces to come

senior MoD officials, the Army and the MoD did not want a blanket ban on everybody writing about the history of the Special Forces, but aimed to focus on those disclosures that could really damage national security and future operations.

But that was all too complicated for ministers – and especially the Armed Forces Minister, Nicholas Soames. There might be no reason to stop people writing about certain SAS operations, and it might even be good PR. In Yemen, for example, the SAS pioneered the type of reconstruction work now being carried out in Bosnia, known by its staff code as G5 – aid to the civil community. But no. A blanket ban it had to be.

A more intelligent approach

would have been to come down very hard on details of operational techniques that are still used, and operations in Northern Ireland. Information about the role of 14 Company of the Intelligence Corps in Northern Ireland could be more damaging than much of the material about the SAS.

What really worries the MoD is that details may emerge of special forces operations in places where they were not supposed to be. It is widely believed that UK special forces operated in Vietnam, Afghanistan and the former Soviet Union, and there is little doubt that they have been involved in counter-drugs in South America. The MoD's refusal to make any comment on the Special Forces and

refusal to discriminate between real secrets and relatively straightforward military matters could be a dangerous policy in an era when the truth will almost certainly out.

Targeting regimental reunions had a special poignancy. General Sir Peter de la Billière, the former SAS officer who was the senior British soldier in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War, is widely blamed for starting the rush of books with his *Storm Command*, published in 1992. Immediately after the publication of Sir Peter's book, detailing the story of the patrol Bravo Two Zero behind Iraqi lines, it was widely believed that the soldiers who were themselves involved, and survived, might do even better. However, the media's focus

this week invented an imaginary "battle" between Sir Peter and the MoD, stressing his "hero" status. Like all SAS officers and men, he knew that side of his life was supposed to be secret. The extraordinary public interest in him during and after the Gulf war was his own doing. According to his son, quoted in 1995, "He lost loads of money in Lloyd's during the Gulf War, so he wrote his book to make some cash."

Sir Peter is certainly an expert self-publicist. His role in the Gulf was not as powerful or influential as he has made out. The British army and air force units were under operational command of the Americans. Sir Peter's role was more that of a very senior liaison officer.

There has been indignation that many of those excluded had their books "cleared" by the MoD, as some have protested with an air of wounded innocence. "We prefer the word 'scrutinised'," one MoD source said. "Clearance does not mean approval. Then they went and talked on the radio, helped make the documentary. There is a whole network of contacts out there, which contributes to erosion of security."

The MoD has a point. Whereas people who served in the Special Forces in the early days, in the North African desert or the Radfan, wrote their memoirs out of interest or love, the large sums now available have changed the game. Covert and secrecy were always conditions of membership of these elite forces. Now that the temptations to renege are greater, the contractual and statutory instruments enforcing adherence to the code need to be stronger.

The MoD has related its policy of "we do not discuss Special Forces" a little. Once the books started appearing, the MoD could not deny what was in them. "It's a ratchet mechanism," one source said. "Once it clicks forward, you can't go back."

Up to now, the MoD has avoided any very damaging disclosures. *Bravo Two Zero* was embarrassing because it highlighted the cock-ups which occur in any military operation, thus damaging the SAS mystique and aura of invincibility – not because it compromised secrets. Chris Ryan's book, which presented a different account of the same incident, began a more damaging trend with arguments between individuals. The MoD is uncomfortable with that, but it needs to focus on the things that are really secret.

The dumbing down of an after-dark DJ

Radio 1's new man in the morning isn't moronic enough for the slot, argues David Walker

Born, a northern star is born. Mark Radcliffe, a radio presenter confined until now to late hours and the acclaim of students and sixth-formers, is to be Radio 1's *Breakfast Show* replacement for Chris Evans. The usual ratio of fame and fortune attached to such a slot has been doubled because of the manner of Evans's going.

Up or down, Radcliffe's first set of listening figures will get him on the front pages. If he keeps the style and scatological content of his present late evening show, he will get there long before. If he doesn't, if he cleans up his act, goes for the mainstream and performs the musical equivalent of a self-lubrication, he won't be worth listening to.

Whether you can tell Pavement from Pulp or house music from hip-hop, Radcliffe's fate will be worth watching – at least as a demonstration of the allure of the lowest common denominator. Moving to the morning slot on Radio 1, he confronts blandness and brain death. Radcliffe stands to prove, for the umpteenth time, that popular culture is intolerant of idiosyncrasy except in niches, out of hours, in cult formats.

The show, built on stints he did on the old Radio Five and

local radio, consists of a dialogue between two professional Mancunians, Radcliffe (who is actually from Bolton) and Marc Riley, a former bass player with the Fall, nicknamed Lard, who impersonates an intellectual oaf. I say dialogue – some of it is grunts and raspberries, some of it is sounds like they have both had a good drink before the green light came on, and some of it is radio at its very best – the peculiar capacity of the medium to create a club atmosphere intimately linking listener and presenter. There are turns from a "cultural correspondent" in New York, an American based in Britain, film critic, readings from books and – Radcliffe gets accolades from the Arts Council for promoting interest in verse – poetry from the likes of John Hegley. Generally, it's funny.

However, Radcliffe's appointment tells us two things. The first is that nobody listens to late-evening radio – nobody, that is, from the ranks of the nation's self-appointed censors. Radcliffe talks dirty; talks irreverently. Here is a gem from the wit and wisdom of Mark Radcliffe the other night – why is Stonewall Jackson so called? Answer: because he's built like a brick shithouse. Followed by a conversation about what hap-



Radcliffe (left) and Lard: will the iconoclasm be diluted?

pens if you stand down wind of a farting elephant and defecation in fish tanks. Followed by talk about the publication of JD Salinger followed by a gem of radio stream of consciousness about how Raymond Chandler would have sounded if written by his former Dulwich school chum PG Wodehouse.

Then there is the music. Officially, Radcliffe's taste is indie, but that just means he is allowed to play tracks he likes. A live session with Beth Orton is followed by three Brian Wilson tracks. It is hit and miss. It is crude. It is also distinctive radio listening. It works.

Radcliffe's appointment also says a lot (and not very

flatteringly) about the desperation of Matthew Bannister, BBC Director of Radio. Here's a network controller who seems to have no reserve, no talent back-up, who has been forced into translating a presenter whose style, whose essence as a broadcaster is night-time into the open cornfields of morning radio. And so much for youth radio – Radcliffe is 38, nearly twice as old as the Spice Girls he will have no option but to play on the morning programme.

One of the puzzles of celebrity in modern media is how, despite an increasingly diversified array of outlets fragmenting the audience and

dividing up attention, certain individuals can still command general recognition and become generic "stars". In Britain, celebrity is made easier to understand because the national newspapers act as a sort of smoothing agent. Millions were talking last week about Brian Harvey, though they had never heard an East 17 track, because he had been taken up in the press.

Mark Radcliffe will now benefit from the same phenomenon, at least in terms of his bank balance. But for how long? It is hard to see the Radcliffe translation working, even though he has insisted on staying in Manchester to present his programme. Morning radio is mainstream. People don't listen in the attentive way they do at nights. It is about playlists and promotions. Where will the famed Mancunian iconoclasm – a word he uses at night but would never get away with using in the morning – go?

To talk about selling out can make you sound like one of those rock historians endlessly debating when things started going off the rails – when Elvis was inducted, when John Lennon met Yoko Ono, when Johnny Rotten popped his DMs. It's all only showbiz.

So what is at stake for Rad-

cliffe is not principle – unlike, say, the presenter Andy Kerrshaw, Radcliffe seems entirely apolitical. What he stands to lose is character. Radio is, perhaps even more than television, where handiness will get you a long way, the supremely honest medium. If you've got it – character – your voice, your personality lodge in the listeners' hearts as well as ears.

Gimmicks (the format that Steve Wright, Evans's predecessor, used) will get you some of the way but ultimately there has to be a nugget of individuality. Radcliffe's devoted following of a weekday evening has to do with his appeal to a perennially sixth form temperament – a mixture of vulgarity, wit and a sense among listeners that through their popular cultural choices, they were marking themselves out as distinctive.

Radcliffe appeals to them because – there is no doubt – he has a mind and for all the banter, he has been unafraid to use it, albeit in a self-mocking Mancunian way. What he says is this – we are all, actually, clever people together. You cannot do that with the morons of the morning. Radcliffe will have to dumb down and as he does so, he is going to lose his voice, and most of what has made him worth listening to.

£10 BUYS A CHAIN CUTTER

He's chained up through his sensitive nose and made to walk on red hot plates, whilst the back of his legs are left in time to music. Onlookers taunt him and force him to drink beer. Why? Because they're teaching him to 'dance' for tourists who pay to watch his agonising waltz.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) rescues 'dancing bears' and takes them to sanctuaries where they can be free of pain and suffering. But we can't carry out our life-saving work without the support of people like you. Your gift of just £10, or whatever you can afford, will help cut the chains of innocent animals. So please send your donation today. He's counting on you.

YES, I WANT TO CUT THE CHAINS!

Please fill in the details below
Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Here is my donation of £ _____
(Please make cheques payable to WSPA or complete the credit card details below.)
Account/VISA/Mastercard/Softcard/Debitcard/CAF CharityCard (Please write in full)
Card No. _____
Expiry date _____ Today's date _____

Please send this completed form and your donation to: WSPA, Dept. ALB, Freepost N02504, Northampton, NN3 6SR. No stamp is needed. THANK YOU. Registered Charity No. 282308



business & city

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098
BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Sainsbury shares slide 13% on profits warning

Nigel Cope

Sainsbury's position in the supermarket battle was severely weakened yesterday when the company issued a dramatic profits warning, forcing the shares into free fall.

Sainsbury's shares plunged 13 per cent to 341p, their lowest point for five years, after the company said this year's profits would be around £60m lower than City expectations due to problems across its range of businesses.

The shock warning means Sainsbury's profits will fall for the second consecutive year. Profits for the year to March will be the fallen giant's lowest since 1992. Sainsbury said this year's profits would be around £60m-£65m, against analysts' estimates of £715m.

The supermarket group blamed the fall on high costs associated with building sales through its loyalty card as well as higher conversion costs at Texas Homecare, the DIY chain acquired two years ago. Sainsbury's US businesses have also been hit by problems.

In addition Sainsbury will incur an additional £50m charge as it accelerates the conversion of the Texas format to Sainsbury's Homebase.

The severity of the announcement shocked analysts and institutional shareholders who were voicing fears yesterday that Sainsbury's had "lost the plot" in the battle against Tesco as the gap between the two rivals widened.

One large institutional shareholder, who declined to be named, said the warning was particularly surprising as it came only a month after Sainsbury's management had visited institutions with an upbeat message. "They were very positive just before Christmas so this is a major shock. It seems that there are a lot of small things going wrong everywhere. It looks pretty dire."

Tony MacNeary of NatWest Securities said he expected Tesco to take advantage of Sainsbury's obvious vulnerability to increase the pressure. "Management and staff must be demoralised. Tesco is bound to exploit it."

Frank Davidson of James Capel said: "It makes you feel that management has lost control. Sales growth looks pedestrian, the costs of the Reward card are higher than expected. Management credibility stands at an all-time low."

He added that the poor performance of the Reward card called into question the use of such cards across the sector. The profits warning accompanied the announcement of sales growth of 4.4 per cent in the eight weeks over the Christmas. The figures were in stark contrast to the 7.5 per cent increase announced by Tesco earlier this week.

Sainsbury said that the Reward card was contributing a 2 per cent sales uplift, the bottom end of pre-launch expectations and barely enough to cover the card's costs.

With food price inflation running at 3 per cent, Sainsbury's real sales growth is only 1.4 per cent. David Sainsbury, chairman, said that real sales growth of 1 per cent was historically "pretty good" for Sainsbury's.

He admitted that shareholders would be disappointed with the profits warning but hoped they would be pleased with the sales growth. "The strategy of the supermarkets is working. We have turned around the sales performance."

However, with the shares sliding and analysts suggesting a switch to Tesco and other supermarket stocks, the new Sainsbury's top team faces a stern test.

The group has been consistently out-manoeuvred by Tesco and a rejuvenated Asda. It was forced into a U-turn with the launch of its own loyalty card and was second into financial services with its yet-to-be launched Sainsbury's Bank.

Now it appears that the cost of trying to claw back market share lost to Tesco has been far higher than anticipated. The integration of Texas Homecare is also proving costly. Sainsbury's admits that Texas was in a far poorer condition than was apparent at the time of the deal with Ladbroke.

The two parties are still £70m apart on their valuations and the matter remains in the hands of an arbitrator. Sainsbury's hopes to settle the dispute next month.

Mr Sainsbury declined to admit that he had paid too much for the chain. He said a lower price would only have encouraged an overseas buyer.

Sainsbury's US businesses are also performing poorly. At Shaw's, the US supermarket business, like-for-like sales grew 1.4 per cent in the 16 weeks to 11 January. At Giant, where Sainsbury's has a 20 per cent stake, the group said profits would be £5m lower.

Leading article, page 19
Comment, page 23

How they lost the plot

- Feb 1995: Tesco launches ClubCard loyalty card. David Sainsbury dismisses them as 'electronic green shield stamps'
- Sept 1995: Tesco edges ahead of Sainsbury in market share for the first time
- Jan 1996: Sainsbury warns that year profits will be below expectations
- May: Sainsbury announces first fall in profits for 22 years as pre-tax profits slide to £712m from £809m
- June: Tesco adds ClubCard Plus interest-paying card
- June: Sainsbury does U-turn and launches its own loyalty scheme, the Reward card
- Oct: Sainsbury's tries to capture the lead in financial services with plans for a Sainsbury Bank with Bank of Scotland
- Oct: Sainsbury's half year pre-tax profits slip to £393m against £456. Full year forecasts cut to £710-725m
- Jan 1997: Latest market share figures show Sainsbury at 20.1 per cent, still behind Tesco with 23.2 per cent
- Jan 1997: Sainsbury shocks City with another profit warning. Announces sales growth far lower than Tesco

fore Christmas so this is a major shock. It seems that there are a lot of small things going wrong everywhere. It looks pretty dire."

Tony MacNeary of NatWest Securities said he expected Tesco to take advantage of Sainsbury's obvious vulnerability to increase the pressure. "Management and staff must be demoralised. Tesco is bound to exploit it."

Frank Davidson of James Capel said: "It makes you feel that management has lost control. Sales growth looks pedestrian, the costs of the Reward card are higher than expected. Management credibility stands at an all-time low."

He added that the poor performance of the Reward card called into question the use of such cards across the sector. The profits warning accompanied the announcement of sales growth of 4.4 per cent in the eight weeks over the Christmas. The figures were in stark contrast to the 7.5 per cent increase announced by Tesco earlier this week.

Sainsbury said that the Reward card was contributing a 2 per cent sales uplift, the bottom end of pre-launch expectations and barely enough to cover the card's costs.

With food price inflation running at 3 per cent, Sainsbury's real sales growth is only 1.4 per cent. David Sainsbury, chairman, said that real sales growth of 1 per cent was historically "pretty good" for Sainsbury's.

He admitted that shareholders would be disappointed with the profits warning but hoped they would be pleased with the sales growth. "The strategy of the supermarkets is working. We have turned around the sales performance."

However, with the shares sliding and analysts suggesting a switch to Tesco and other supermarket stocks, the new Sainsbury's top team faces a stern test.

The group has been consistently out-manoeuvred by Tesco and a rejuvenated Asda. It was forced into a U-turn with the launch of its own loyalty card and was second into financial services with its yet-to-be launched Sainsbury's Bank.

Now it appears that the cost of trying to claw back market share lost to Tesco has been far higher than anticipated. The integration of Texas Homecare is also proving costly. Sainsbury's admits that Texas was in a far poorer condition than was apparent at the time of the deal with Ladbroke.

The two parties are still £70m apart on their valuations and the matter remains in the hands of an arbitrator. Sainsbury's hopes to settle the dispute next month.

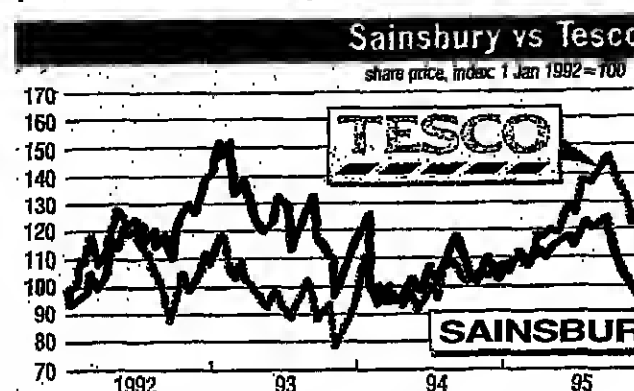
Mr Sainsbury declined to admit that he had paid too much for the chain. He said a lower price would only have encouraged an overseas buyer.

Sainsbury's US businesses are also performing poorly. At Shaw's, the US supermarket business, like-for-like sales grew 1.4 per cent in the 16 weeks to 11 January. At Giant, where Sainsbury's has a 20 per cent stake, the group said profits would be £5m lower.

Leading article, page 19
Comment, page 23



Supermarket wars: David Sainsbury now faces further pressure from the company's arch rival, Tesco



Sainsbury vs Tesco
share price index: Jan 1992=100

Markets retreat as Wall Street stumbles

Diane Coyle
London
and David Osborne
New York

The financial markets went into retreat yesterday, dominated by a weaker dollar and falling share prices on Wall Street for the second successive day. Shares in London reversed Thursday's spectacular gains, while the pound declined further against the German mark.

Behind the dramatic moves by investors' renewed fears that US interest rates will rise and dashed hopes that German rates will fall.

The FTSE 100 index lost nearly 53 points to close at 4,218.7, after a 53-point rise on Thursday. The pound fell nearly two pence to just over DM2.65 following its five pence rise the day before, although it was steady against the dollar yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average continued to track downwards yesterday in the wake of the precipitous 94-point slide that rocked the New York markets at the close of play on Thursday when a record number of shares were traded. At midday it was hovering around a loss of 50 points.

Speculation that the as-yet-unsettled bull run on the Dow may at last be entering a correction was fuelled yesterday by activity on the bond market, where interest rates continued to edge higher. At midday the 30-year US Treasury was off by half-a-point while the yield had risen to 6.90 per cent.

"This smells like a correction, it feels like a correction, I would be surprised, in fact, if it does not turn out to be that long-awaited correction," commented William Mattison of Gerard Klauer Mattison in New York.

Few on Wall Street were predicting anything more dramatic, however. Attention is still focused on the next meeting of the Federal Reserve open market committee on 3-4 February to consider a possible change in interest rates.

Predicting that the Fed would leave rates alone, Jeffrey Applegate of Lehman Bros said that there was no need for investors to panic. "We think we've probably got a modest correction at hand."

Thursday's turnaround came as the industrial average was continuing its run into record territory and breaking through the 5,900 mark. Until midday on Thursday, the index had put on nearly 7 per cent in value just this month. Even after Thursday's 94-point dive, the increase this year was 4.8 per cent.

FirstBus told to sell part of Scottish operation

Patrick Toohy

The Department of Trade and Industry yesterday ordered FirstBus to sell some of its Scottish bus activities after ruling that its proposed £96m acquisition of Glasgow-based SB Holdings could act against the public interest.

The DTI's decision is a blow to FirstBus, which became Britain's highest local bus operator when it bought SBH last May. The action by the DTI is based on a recommendation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission which investigated the deal. Shares in FirstBus fell 4.5p to 221p on the news.

"FirstBus should be required to divest the business of its subsidiary Midland Bluebird, plus

part of the Glasgow operations of SBH and should identify a firm buyer within nine months of the publication of the MMC's report," the DTI said.

The FirstBus operations earmarked for sale by the DTI, including at least one of SBH's four central Glasgow bus

depots, are thought to have a combined annual turnover of £40m, compared to estimated group sales of £750m.

If FirstBus does not find a firm buyer, or fails to proceed with a sale within nine months, it would have to sell SBH "in its entirety", the DTI added.

Smallwood, executive chairman of FirstBus.

However, he said that the ruling on Midland Bluebird, which operates in central Scotland, was not entirely unexpected.

Mr Taylor said FirstBus was by far the largest operator in central and south-east Scotland where SBH supplied 40 per cent of the bus service and FirstBus's other subsidiaries 21 per cent.

"The scale and dominance of FirstBus/SBH in central and south-east Scotland was likely to deter competition with SBH from the other two large adjacent operators, Stagecoach Holdings and Cowie Group," Mr Taylor argued.

Mr Taylor also noted that all four SBH depots in Glasgow were within four miles of the city centre and all had capacity for at least 120 or so vehicles.

But FirstBus said it was concerned about the impact selling one of the depots would have on the quality of bus services in Glasgow.

where SBH supplied 40 per cent of the bus service and FirstBus's other subsidiaries 21 per cent.

"The scale and dominance of FirstBus/SBH in central and south-east Scotland was likely to deter competition with SBH from the other two large adjacent operators, Stagecoach Holdings and Cowie Group," Mr Taylor argued.

Mr Taylor also noted that all four SBH depots in Glasgow were within four miles of the city centre and all had capacity for at least 120 or so vehicles.

But FirstBus said it was concerned about the impact selling one of the depots would have on the quality of bus services in Glasgow.

Dundee bus takeover brings windfall for drivers

Patrick Toohy

Around 500 employees of the Dundee-based Tayside are each in line for a windfall of at least £20,000 after the planned sale to National Express, the airports to rail group which recently lost its chief executive, writes Magnus Grimond.

The £12.5m offer by National Express, which is being made by the group's West Midlands Travel offshoot, has been said to be Scotland's last privately owned bus group to be sold.

The group beat off intense competition from rival bus operators, including Stagecoach, a near neighbour in Perth. FirstBus, British Bus and Strathgairn, part of Yorkshire Traction.

The employees each paid £500 for one share when the business was bought out from the local authority in 1991, with all sharing equally whether they were a director or a driver. The windfall, which could increase by another £2,000 or so if certain tax com-

plaints relating to an employee trust are cleared up, compares with typical annual pay of around £14,600 a year.

Jack Henry, Tayside chief executive, said news of the deal, first announced in outline last December, had been well received by the workforce.

Until this week Boeing was also developing its own super jumbo, the 550 seat 747-400X, but it shelved the project claiming the market was too small.

Boeing yesterday denied that it had abandoned the project to concentrate instead on the McDonnell Douglas design. A spokesman repeated that the decision had been taken because there was insufficient market demand to justify the \$7bn development costs.

Although Airbus has rejected the design, one of its partners, Aerospatiale of France, has spent four years developing a single wing aircraft capable of seating up to 1,000 passengers on two decks. To make up for the lack of windows, cameras on the wing would send back pictures of the outside to be displayed on giant screens.

Daunting: The flying wing poses technological problems

jumbo jet but is said to use 30 per cent less fuel than the proposed next generation of 550-1,000-seat super jumbos.

An Airbus spokesman said: "It is true that on paper the blended wing design has advantages but it also has significant drawbacks. The problems associated with it are huge. How would you pressurise a vessel of that size, how would passengers board it and how would they be evacuated? There is also the difficulty of controlling the aircraft because of its shape. It would require very sophisticated fly-by-wire technology because the design is aerodynamically unstable."

Airbus also doubted that the flying wing design - which has a span of nearly 90 metres - would fit into any of the world's airports without major modifications to their layout.

The consortium is instead pressing ahead with the development of its own conventionally-designed super jumbo, the A3XX, which would seat 555-650 passengers and cost at least \$8bn to develop.

Airbus shies away from flying wing giant

Michael Harrison

Airbus Industrie, the European aircraft manufacturer, said yesterday that it had looked at developing a giant 800-seat "flying wing" aircraft but abandoned the concept because the technological problems were too daunting.

The consortium was commenting after McDonnell Douglas of the US, which is being taken over by Boeing, said it was preparing to test fly an unmanned model of its own blended wing body (BWB) design. If successful, McDonnell and the US space agency NASA plan to spend \$100m (£61m) building two quarter-size versions of the revolutionary aircraft.

The blended wing aircraft could carry twice as many passengers as the Boeing 747

Daunting: The flying wing poses technological problems

jumbo jet but is said to use 30 per cent less fuel than the proposed next generation of 550-1,000-seat super jumbos.

An Airbus spokesman said: "It is true that on paper the blended wing design has advantages but it also has significant drawbacks. The problems associated with it are huge. How would you pressurise a vessel of that size, how would passengers board it and how would they be evacuated? There is also the difficulty of controlling the aircraft because of its shape. It would require very sophisticated fly-by-wire technology because the design is aerodynamically unstable."

Airbus also doubted that the flying wing design - which has a span of nearly 90 metres - would fit into any of the world's airports without major modifications to their layout.

The consortium is instead pressing ahead with the development of its own conventionally-designed super jumbo, the A3XX, which would seat 555-650 passengers and cost at least \$8bn to develop.

Daunting: The flying wing poses technological problems

jumbo jet but is said to use 30 per cent less fuel than the proposed next generation of 550-1,000-seat super jumbos.

An Airbus spokesman said: "It is true that on paper the blended wing design has advantages but it also has significant drawbacks. The problems associated with it are huge. How would you pressurise a vessel of that size, how would passengers board it and how would they be evacuated? There is also the difficulty of controlling the aircraft because of its shape. It would require very sophisticated fly-by-wire technology because the design is aerodynamically unstable."

Airbus also doubted that the flying wing design - which has a span of nearly 90 metres - would fit into any of the world's airports without major modifications to their layout.

The consortium is instead pressing ahead with the development of its own conventionally-designed super jumbo, the A3XX, which would seat 555-650 passengers and cost at least \$8bn to develop.

Daunting: The flying wing poses technological problems

jumbo jet but is said to use 30 per cent less fuel than the proposed next generation of 550-1,000-seat super jumbos.

An Airbus spokesman said: "It is true that on paper the blended wing design has advantages but it also has significant drawbacks. The problems associated with it are huge. How would you pressurise a vessel of that size, how would passengers board it and how would they be evacuated? There is also the difficulty of controlling the aircraft because of its shape. It would require very sophisticated fly-by-wire technology because the design is aerodynamically unstable."

Airbus also doubted that the flying wing design - which has a span of nearly 90 metres - would fit into any of the world's airports without major modifications to their layout.

The consortium is instead pressing ahead with the development of its own conventionally-designed super jumbo, the A3XX, which would seat 555-650 passengers and cost at least \$8bn to develop.

Daunting: The flying wing poses technological problems

jumbo jet but is said to use 30 per cent less fuel than the proposed next generation of 550-1,000-seat super jumbos.

An Airbus spokesman said: "It is true that on paper the blended wing design has advantages but it also has significant drawbacks. The problems associated with it are huge. How would you pressurise a vessel of that size, how would passengers board it and how would they be evacuated? There is also the difficulty of controlling the aircraft because of its shape. It would require very sophisticated fly-by-wire technology because the design is aerodynamically unstable."

Airbus also doubted that the flying wing design - which has a span of nearly 90 metres - would fit into any of the world's airports without major modifications to their layout.

The consortium is instead pressing ahead with the development of its own conventionally-designed super jumbo, the A3XX, which would seat 555-650 passengers and cost at least \$8bn to develop.

Daunting: The flying wing poses technological problems

jumbo jet but is said to use 30 per cent less fuel than the proposed next generation of 550-1,000-seat super jumbos.

An Airbus spokesman said: "It is true that on paper the blended wing design has advantages but it also has significant drawbacks. The problems associated with it are huge. How would you pressurise a vessel of that size, how would passengers board it and how would they be evacuated? There is also the difficulty of controlling the aircraft because of its shape. It would require very sophisticated fly-by-wire technology because the design is aerodynamically unstable."

Airbus also doubted that the flying wing design - which has a span of nearly 90 metres - would fit into any of the world's airports without major modifications to their layout.

The consortium is instead pressing ahead with the development of its own conventionally-designed super jumbo, the A3XX, which would seat 555-650 passengers and cost at least \$8bn to develop.

Daunting: The flying wing poses technological problems

jumbo jet but is said to use 30 per cent less fuel than the proposed next generation of 550-1,000-seat super jumbos.

An Airbus spokesman said: "It is true that on paper the blended wing design has advantages but it also has significant drawbacks. The problems associated with it are huge. How would you pressurise a vessel of that size, how would passengers board it and how would they be evacuated? There is also the difficulty of controlling the aircraft because of its shape. It would require very sophisticated fly-by-wire technology because the design is aerodynamically unstable."

Airbus also doubted that the flying wing design - which has a span of nearly 90 metres - would fit into any of the world's airports without major modifications to their layout.

The consortium is instead pressing ahead with the development of its own conventionally-designed super jumbo, the A3XX, which would seat 555-650 passengers and cost at least \$8bn to develop.

Daunting: The flying wing poses technological problems

jumbo jet but is said to use 30 per cent less fuel than the proposed next generation of 550-1,000-seat super jumbos.

An Airbus spokesman said: "It is true that on paper the blended wing design has advantages but it also has significant drawbacks. The problems associated with it are huge. How would you pressurise a vessel of that size, how would passengers board it and how would they be evacuated? There is also the difficulty of controlling the aircraft because of its shape. It would require very sophisticated fly-by-wire technology because the design is aerodynamically unstable."

Airbus also doubted that the flying wing design - which has a span of nearly 90 metres - would fit into any of the world's airports without major modifications to their layout.

The consortium is instead pressing ahead with the development of its own conventionally-designed super jumbo, the A3XX, which would seat 555-650 passengers and cost at least \$8bn to develop.

Daunting: The flying wing poses technological problems

jumbo jet but is said to use 30 per cent less fuel than the proposed next generation of 550-1,000-seat super jumbos.

An Airbus spokesman said: "It is true that on paper the blended wing design has advantages but it also has significant drawbacks. The problems associated with it are huge. How would you pressurise a vessel of that size, how would passengers board it and how would they be evacuated? There is also the difficulty of controlling the aircraft because of its shape. It would require very sophisticated fly-by-wire technology because the design is aerodynamically unstable."

Airbus also doubted that the flying wing design - which has a span of nearly 90 metres - would fit into any of the world's airports without major modifications to their layout.

The consortium is instead pressing ahead with the development of its own conventionally-designed super jumbo, the A3XX, which would seat 555-650 passengers and cost at least \$8bn to develop.

Daunting: The flying wing poses technological problems

jumbo jet but is said to use 30 per cent less fuel than the proposed next generation of 550-1,000-seat super jumbos.

An Airbus spokesman said: "It is true that on paper the blended wing design has advantages but it also has significant drawbacks. The problems associated with it are huge. How would you pressurise a vessel of that size, how would passengers board it and how would they be evacuated? There is also the difficulty of controlling the aircraft because of its shape. It would require very sophisticated fly-by-wire technology because the design is aerodynamically unstable."

Airbus also doubted that the flying wing design - which has a span of nearly 90 metres - would fit into any of the world's airports without major modifications to their layout.

The consortium is instead pressing ahead with the development of its own conventionally-designed super jumbo, the A3XX, which would seat 555-650 passengers and cost at least \$8bn to develop.

Daunting: The flying wing poses technological problems

jumbo jet but is said to use 30 per cent less fuel than the proposed next generation of 550-1,000-seat super jumbos.

An Airbus spokesman said: "It is true that on paper the blended wing design has advantages but it also has significant drawbacks. The problems associated with it are huge. How would you pressurise a vessel of that size, how would passengers board it and how would they be evacuated? There is also the difficulty of controlling the aircraft because of its shape. It would require very sophisticated fly-by-wire technology because the design is aerodynamically unstable."

Airbus also doubted that the flying wing design - which has a span of nearly 90 metres - would fit into any of the world's airports without major modifications to their layout.

The consortium is instead pressing ahead with the development of its own conventionally-designed super jumbo, the A3XX, which would seat 555-650 passengers and cost at least \$8bn to develop.

Daunting: The flying wing poses technological problems

jumbo jet but is said to use 30 per cent less fuel than the proposed next generation of 550-1,000-seat super jumbos.

An Airbus spokesman said: "It is true that on paper the blended wing design has advantages but it also has significant drawbacks. The problems associated with it are huge. How would you pressurise a vessel of that size, how would passengers board it and how would they be evacuated? There is also the difficulty of controlling the aircraft because of its shape. It would require very sophisticated fly-by-wire technology because the design is aerodynamically unstable."

Airbus also doubted that the flying wing design - which has a span of nearly 90 metres - would fit into any of the world's airports without major modifications to their layout.

The consortium is instead pressing ahead with the development of its own conventionally-designed super jumbo, the A3XX, which would seat 555-650 passengers and cost at least \$8bn to develop.

Daunting: The flying wing poses technological problems

jumbo jet but is said to use 30 per cent less fuel than the proposed next generation of 550-1,000-seat super jumbos.

An Airbus spokesman said: "It is true that on paper the blended wing design has advantages but it also has significant drawbacks. The problems associated with it are huge. How would you pressurise a vessel of that size, how would passengers board it and how would they be evacuated? There is also the difficulty of controlling the aircraft because of its shape. It would require very sophisticated fly-by-wire technology because the design is aerodynamically unstable."

Airbus also doubted that the flying wing design - which has a span of nearly 90 metres - would fit into any of the world's airports without major modifications to their layout.

The consortium is instead pressing ahead with the development of its own conventionally-designed super jumbo, the A3XX, which would seat 555-650 passengers and cost at least \$8bn to develop.

Daunting: The flying wing poses technological problems

jumbo jet but is said to use 30 per cent less fuel than the proposed next generation of 550-1,000-seat super jumbos.



JEREMY WARNER

In these circumstances it would be unfair and inappropriate to start calling, as some will, for Mr Sainsbury's head. This is still a successful, well managed and highly efficient company.

Supermarket heavy weight is down but not out

Has Sainsbury's finally lost the plot, or will it, a few years from now, come thundering back to outstrip Tesco again? The stock market, for one, has already made up its mind - Sainsbury's shares are now at their five-year low. Analysts, too, fear that Tesco is building up an unassailable lead. On the evidence, it is hard to disagree.

Over the past three years Tesco has overtaken Sainsbury's on most of the accepted yardsticks of success: in terms of profits, number of stores, sales growth, number of customers and market capitalisation. It is now significantly higher than Sainsbury's. And it is fast catching up even on group sales (where Sainsbury's position is boosted by its US and DIY interests), sales per square foot and return on sales.

Furthermore, Sainsbury's has been left trailing Tesco on most of the industry's recent marketing and product innovations. Loyalty cards, financial services, home deliveries, smaller in-town convenience stores - on all these things Tesco was there first. Worse, Sainsbury's was forced into an embarrassing about-turn on the loyalty card, having first derided the concept as just an electronic form of green shield stamps. On discounting too, Sainsbury's has had to cut its words, recognising in practice if not quite yet in public that food cannot be sold on quality alone; price also matters.

The profits warning, and latest sales fig-

ures, confirm beyond all doubt that Sainsbury's is on the run, struggling to make headway and in serious danger of losing it altogether. Meanwhile Tesco continues to forge ahead. Sainsbury's sales increase in the final three months of last year is scarcely enough to match inflation, let alone pay for the company's newly launched loyalty card. Profits, too, are in full retreat and that is not just because of unanticipated costs of restructuring the Texas Homecare acquisitions. It is apparent from the figures that what little volume growth there is in the core food retailing business is having to be bought.

What's gone wrong, and can it be corrected? In some respects Sainsbury's is a victim of its own success. Throughout the 1970s and most of the 1980s it built a powerful lead, pushing the frontiers of own-label development, carefully cultivating an up-market image for quality and choice. It worked spectacularly. The formula was only one part of the reason, however. The other was that in those days Sainsbury's largely had the market to itself.

Tesco's more recent success is built on some very basic and simple Japanese business principles: if you see a successful formula, copy it and do it better. To be fair on Lord MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco, there's obviously a little more to it than that. He's not just caught up with Sainsbury's, he's leaptfrogged it. He's taken the quality and choice

formula invented by Sainsbury's, and by developing a reputation (not wholly justified) for being cheaper too, made it classless and universal. It's an old trick, but not an easy one: creep up behind the complacent market leader, seize the initiative and broaden the appeal. The Toyota Corolla, as it were, has overtaken the Ford Escort.

David Sainsbury's present discomfort, then, is not wholly, or even mainly, of his own making. The simple truth is that he is having to operate in a far more competitive market than his predecessor and cousin, Lord Sainsbury. It's not just Tesco that has got its act together. Safeway, too, and even the once bombed-out Asda, are speeding up the wings. Mr Sainsbury is also having to deal with the fact that stock market expectations of the company were inflated to a wholly unrealistic level at the time he took over. A bit like Tony Greener at Guinness, he's had to grapple with some very exaggerated views of what the company is and what it is capable of. Coming to terms with reality has been a painful experience for all concerned.

In these circumstances it would be unfair and inappropriate to start calling, as some will, for Mr Sainsbury's head. Sainsbury's is still a successful, well managed and highly efficient company. It is not, like Forté, another crumbling, badly run family dynasty.

Mr Sainsbury does need to watch it, though. To be trounced by competitors as

Sainsbury's has been is strong evidence of complacency and drift. As worrying, for the City at least, is the fact that before Christmas the company briefed his shareholders to the effect that everything was going swimmingly, the new management team was settling in, things were positive and the company had turned the corner. If this is turning the corner it's a new one on me.

All the same, Mr Sainsbury's new team needs more time to demonstrate what it can do. The company's announcement of a fully fledged supermarket bank demonstrates that there's life in the old dinosaur yet. For those willing to take a five-year view, this may be the time to add a few more Sainsbury's to the portfolio.

Andrew Dilnot of the Institute for Fiscal Studies paints a bleak picture of the public finances in the new "Analysis" series he is presenting for BBC radio on the National Health Service. His central thesis is that it is going to be hard in the point of near impossibility for the next government to meet the long-term spending targets set out in the latest Budget Red Book. We all instinctively knew this was likely to be the case, what Mr Dilnot does is demonstrate it beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, must be rather wishing he had had the benefit of Mr Dilnot's analysis before commit-

ting the Labour Party to the present Government's spending totals. These plans envisage hardly any real growth in spending on health to the turn of the century. This despite the fact that both parties are committed to a publicly funded health service, and, in their public statements at least, real increased spending on it.

Ever since it was set up, spending on the National Health Service has grown at the rate of roughly 3 per cent per year in real terms. That rate of growth continued unabated throughout the Thatcher years and the more recent health service reforms. Even in practical terms, halting the trend is going to be virtually impossible, for the health service cannot be capped like local authorities. In political terms it would very likely prove suicidal. People like their health service, they expect more money in the spent on it, and they are not, except at the affluent tip of society, going to give it up. For the health service at least, the Red Book forecasts are pure fantasy.

So what are the policy options? If the commitment on spending by both parties is taken at face value, there will have to be swingeing cuts elsewhere to meet the inevitable budget overrun in health. Alternatively the next government could borrow more, but both parties are as much committed to prudence on this front as on spending. Or it could raise taxes, which, unfortunately, is all too likely to be the course adopted.

Clarke and Brown in talks over SIB post

Nic Cicutti

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is preparing to seek a replacement for Sir Andrew Large, the departing chairman of the Securities and Investments Board by involving Gordon Brown, his opposite number on the Labour benches, in the search for a successor. Treasury officials and staff from the Shadow Chancellor's office have already held discussions in the search for a successor since Sir Andrew made it clear that he no longer wanted to stay on at SIB.

Sir Andrew's stated wish to

step down at the end of his five-year term, notified to the Treasury two weeks ago, was immediately relayed to Labour.

However, it is understood that an initial Treasury bid to bring the search to a speedy conclusion was slowed down by the Labour team, who are prepared to delay an appointment until after the general election if necessary.

A spokesman for Mr Brown said: "We were disappointed that Sir Andrew did not want to carry on. He had a good understanding of where we wanted to go in the regulatory field. There have been discus-

sions with civil servants. It has been 100 per cent clear from the outset that they have no intention of appointing someone who did not meet with Gordon Brown's approval."

The cross-party consensus has the full support of Mr Clarke and also Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, who will jointly appoint a successor to Sir Andrew.

The spokesman added: "But this is a very important appointment for us. We may not be able to find someone quickly, or in advance of the election." If a replacement is not found in time, Sir Andrew may be

asked to stay on beyond his departure date of 31 May, or the post will be left vacant.

A Treasury spokesman said the search for a successor was unlikely to be over quickly. Potential candidates would be considered carefully.

"We are searching for someone who has Sir Andrew's combination of interpersonal skills, industry experience and dynamism. That will take some time."

It is understood that no shortlist has yet been drawn up for consideration by Treasury Ministers or the Shadow Chancellor. One option being

considered is to recruit an outside figure with sufficient senior executive experience and credibility for the job.

Among those most strongly tipped by sources yesterday were Christopher Sharpley, former chairman at the Securities and Futures Authority. He is chairman of Datastream, and sits on the board of the GNL, the derivatives trading arm of the Gernard Group, the stockbroker and fund management company.

He said: "Sir Andrew will be a tremendously hard act to follow. It is a tremendous challenge and I have always

been open to new challenges. But I do have my hands very full at present."

Other candidates include Phillip Thorpe, chief executive at Inro, the fund management watchdog, who is credited with retrieving the regulator's credibility in the wake of the Maxwell pensions scandal.

An outside tip is Colette Bowe, chief executive at the Personal Investment Authority, who has previously held a senior position at SIB for several years. Other potential outside candidates include Nick Durlacher, the current SFA chairman who replaced Mr Sharpley.



Changing faces: (from left) Sir Andrew Large, the departing SIB chairman, and three of the names mentioned as his

IN BRIEF

PepsiCo spin-off could be worth \$12m

New York - The spin-off by PepsiCo of its fast-food units could be worth as much as \$12m (£7.4m) and will create a company with more restaurants worldwide than the American burger behemoth McDonalds. Confirmation of the spin-off came late on Thursday from Pepsi, which explained that it wanted to focus more intently on its drinks unit. Pepsi has come under furious pressure from its bigger rival Coca Cola.

"I believe that the new restaurant company will be a powerful organisation with great potential, the new PepsiCo will be better than ever, and both companies will be far more capable of improving their operations to create solid sustainable growth," said PepsiCo chairman Roger Enrico. The new restaurant company, which has the Pizza Hut, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Taco Bell brands, will boast some 29,000 outlets worldwide. David Osborne

Police to get pension reinstatement

The Government published a Bill designed to allow police officers and firefighters who were mis-sold personal pensions to be reinstated into occupational pension schemes they were wrongly advised to leave. The Bill follows a report in 1994 showing that up to 1.5 million people were wrongly advised to buy a pension, including up to 1,000 firefighters and police officers.

Negative equity dwindles

The number of households affected by negative equity will fall to 90,000 by the end of 1997, down from a peak of more than 1.2 million in 1993, according to UBS, the Swiss banking group. Rob Thomas, housing analyst at UBS, said the fall would happen if property prices rose by 10 per cent this year, as he has predicted.

JP Morgan scraps metal trading

JP Morgan said it will stop trading base metals, the latest in a string of banks and securities firms cutting their commodities coverage, amid shrinking profits in that business. The US bank said it will stop making markets for investors on the London Metals Exchange and the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange. It will still offer metals hedging and financial product services to clients that are base metal companies "when it can add value," a spokeswoman said.

United News agrees Survival deal

United News & Media subsidiary United Broadcasting & Entertainment said it agreed a deal with Discovery Communications to supply the back catalogue of its flagship natural history producer Survival. The company said it expects the deal to yield history up to £55m extra sales over seven years from 1997.

McAlpine in £1.85m settlement

Alfred McAlpine and CALA said a settlement had been reached in a breach of design copyright action. The agreement involves McAlpine paying CALA £1.85m in settlement, which will be taken as a one-off operating exceptional item in the 1996 accounts.

Minister moves on late payment

In a bid to further help small firms tackle the problems caused by late payment, draft regulations which will require all pps and their large private subsidiaries to disclose details of their payment practices were today laid before Parliament by small business minister Richard Page.

Don't score an own-goal if you invest in football clubs

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

It has been quite a week for football. Millwall called in the administrators, Bournemouth went into receivership, Rangers received a £40m cash injection from billionaire tax exile Joe Lewis while Pizza Express entrepreneur Peter Bonzo bought Peterborough. Football, as never before, is stealing the headlines on the business pages.

Even more worryingly, according to ShareLink five of last week's top 10 most heavily bought shares were football clubs, including Millwall. Even Alan Hansen, one of the most respected commentators on activities on the pitch, has put his name to a football investment fund run by Singer & Friedlander. If ever there was a sign that a bull market was ready to boil over surely it is this.

As with all investment stories at the height of market booms, there is more than a grain of truth in the apparent attractions of football and over the past year shares in the growing number of quoted football clubs have outperformed the rest of the market by a stunning margin. The trouble is, football's dazzling run so far does not mean it will continue to be such a great investment.

The hull case for football rests on a number of pretty compelling arguments. The game has been transformed since the Taylor report of 1990 was published, with far-reaching implications for safety standards, communication between clubs and fans and the behaviour of players and the media. Arguably the report marked a watershed in the game, creating a family and television-friendly leisure activity with huge commercial potential out of the ruins of a hooliganised, male-dominated anachronism of a sport. As the chart shows, the decline in football violence and rising crowds have moved hand in hand.

The stock market has been slow to catch on to the full implications of those changes, but a number of recent developments have switched it on to the

lucrative potential of football. Most important of these has been the rising role of television and especially pay-per-view deals.

Other developments have also had a large impact, however, including a growing appreciation of the role of merchandising, sponsorship and asset utilisation. In no other business would a company's major asset be used for only 90 minutes a week.

That has changed and the market has rushed for a share of the action to the extent that a leading club like Manchester United is now valued at the best part of £500m. But anyone tempted by the sparkling share price performances of companies like Celtic, Chelsea Village and Caspian (Leeds) over the past 12 months should tread carefully.

Manchester United has a prosperous future because it has an instantly recognisable brand, more or less guaranteed income from television and the virtuous circle of success on the field leading to growing revenues. Most clubs do not have that potential.

The spiralling wage bills that will inevitably accompany such high potential profits will price all but a handful of clubs

out of the financial premier-ship. Already, as the chart shows, they use up a large chunk of the lesser clubs' income.

The fact remains that most clubs are not profitable and those that are not propped up by a wealthy benefactor are dependent on the goodwill of their bankers to keep them afloat. More than anywhere the riches of football will fall on the biggest pile and the ratings currently enjoyed by second-line clubs will prove unsustainable.

Some cheer from Park

Peter Johnson, Park Food's executive chairman and 70 per cent shareholder, has had a bad year. Last March his group was forced to make a profits warning after its promotional marketing operation, now called HSL, took its eye off the ball.

That was followed up by the failure of talks between HSL's founder, Stuart Marks, and Mr Johnson for a takeover of the whole group. Mr Marks and two of his fellow HSL direc-

tors were ousted in October, but Mr Johnson's troubles did not end there: Everton, which he also chairs and controls, has just racked up five defeats in a row.

Yesterday, however, he had something to cheer about, when Park reported a pre-tax deficit cut from £5.7m to £5.23m in the traditionally loss-making first half to September. The shares, down from a 1994 peak of 140p, ended 5.5p ahead at 55p.

The better sentiment had less to do with the figures and more with the prospects. Park's main business of Christmas hampers, paid for through weekly savings schemes, is about as seasonal as you can get, but the latest season was a good one. Sales of hampers and Park's high street gift vouchers operation recovered to over £100m from £94m the previous year, when the business was hit by the National Lottery. Cash deposits by customers peaked at a record £80m in November and the omens are for more of the same. Based on orders taken since November, turnover is on course for another 6 to 7 per cent rise this Christmas.

Park's expertise is in wringing more from its existing 1 million-strong customer base than any growth in the market. The average weekly spend has gone up from £4 to about £5, but the spice should come from newer businesses. HSL, for which Park paid £9.3m in 1993, has not proved a good buy, although it appears to be on the mend. Analysts expect full-year profits of £1m, up from £330,000 last year, but half the level of two years ago.

More risky is the venture into reconstituted flavoured chips, DJ Spuddles Gourmet Fries, to be launched next week when a new plant opens. Mr Johnson is confident that £4m investment will contribute next year, but it is anyone's guess how much.

Granville Davies is looking for Park to produce massive again profits of £9.5m this year, for a forward multiple of 14. High enough.

BAT sells US life insurance firms

Magnus Grimond

BAT Industries, the tobacco to financial services combine, yesterday announced the \$330m (£203m) sale of two of its US life insurance businesses in what was said to be a "house-keeping" exercise. Ohio State Life Insurance and Investors Guaranty Life Insurance are being sold by Farmers, BAT's main US insurance offshoot, to Amerigo Life, a rival US group.

A BAT spokeswoman said the deal would have no material impact on Farmers' trading profits and would allow the group's sales force to concentrate on the

third of its life companies, New World Life Insurance, which is a much bigger operation. "It's housekeeping really. It's something we have been saying we have been going to dispose of for some time," she said.

Ohio State and Investors Guaranty sell a variety of life insurance throughout the country and abroad, using independent managing general agents and independent marketing organisations. The deal means Amerigo will have roughly 1 million live policies and more than \$3.3bn assets under management.

BAT's shares dipped 6p to 495.5p yesterday.

London 'should be rescue capital'

John Willcock

Senior insolvency specialists at top UK accountancy firms are planning to turn London into the global capital for international corporate rescues, by revamping the "London Approach" pioneered by the Bank of England in the 1980s.

The Bank introduced the London Approach, an informal set of guidelines on how to prevent multi-banker companies from going bust, in reaction to the spiralling numbers of banks involved in restructuring talks. Where companies had previously used a handful of lead banks, by the 1980s companies like Polly Peck and the Maxwell

empire were borrowing from hundreds of banks from all over the world.

This made co-ordinating re-financing talks increasingly difficult. Under the London Approach a single lead bank would be appointed, usually a UK clearing bank, to liaise with all the overseas banks and work with insolvency specialists towards a rescue. The Bank of England would use its clout to bring recalcitrant banks into line.

Colin Bird, head of corporate recovery at Price Waterhouse, now wants a new London Approach which will incorporate the interests of two other groups that can potentially destabilise

international rescue attempts - bond-holders and debt-traders.

Both groups often have completely different agendas from the banks. Some debt-traders in the US are called "vulture funds" because they buy up debt in troubled companies on the cheap and then attempt to make a turn by influencing the rescue talks to their own ends.

Mr Bird said: "Two opportunities exist. First, to create an approach that works for all stakeholder groups and which makes reconstruction possible. Secondly, to make London the place to undertake international rescues and restructurings."

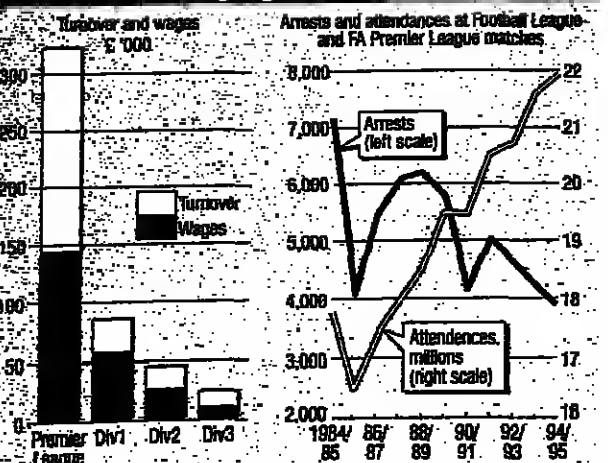
Chris Barlow, a senior insolvency partner with Coopers &

Lybrand, and the man winding up Polly Peck, agrees that the emergence of aggressive American debt-traders means a new approach is needed which will involve them in the rescue process.

Mr Barlow said: "The London Approach has worked very well so far. There have been over 40 successful work-outs of companies with debts of over £100m in the last six years. Companies like Stakis Hotels, Tiplink, Gateway and Queens Moat Houses were all dealt with using the approach."

Mr Bird intends to press his proposals for a new approach at a conference for international insolvency specialists in New Orleans this March.

The changing face of football



Affordable Healthcare

FREephone QUOTING REF B11/DJ02

0500 66 99 66

FOR YOUR PROTECTION CALLS WILL USUALLY BE RECORDED AND RANDOMLY MONITORED

Lifetime from HealthCare

Legal & General

market report / shares

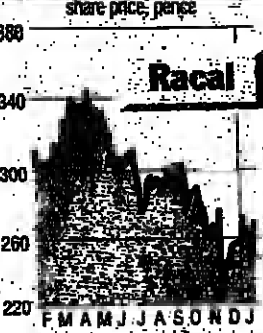
BSkyB hit as Granada dumping claim proves a myth

Taking Stock

Data Bank

FTSE 100
4218.8 - 52.7
FTSE 250
4598.0 - 18.0
FTSE 350
2093.4 - 22.4
SEAQ VOLUME
795.7m shares,
47,411 bargains
Gifts Index
N/A

Share spotlight



It was one of the best, certainly the most successful, rumour for many a moon. As the stock market shivered in the wake of New York's fall, a story gathered strength that Granada was in the process of dumping its 10.8 per cent stake in BSkyB, the satellite television station.

By mid-morning, with City screens trumpeting the sale, BSkyB had fallen and Granada advanced. The deals were said to be at 525p a share which seemed a reasonable enough discount to the then ruling BSkyB price.

But the rumours were wide of the mark - someone, somewhere got their wires crossed. Whether they also made a turn-out of the rumours only a Stock Exchange investigation has any chance, and its probably a remote one, of discovering.

At one stage BSkyB shares were down 18p; they closed

13.5p off at 566p. Granada, after gaining 12.5p, ended 7.5p higher at 867.5p.

It is widely believed Granada will eventually sell its stake and it would be surprising if it has not received bids from leading investment houses.

The leisure group has made slow progress realising the assets captured with its £3.9bn Forte acquisition and has shown an inclination to hang on to bits of Forte which had appeared to be early candidates for its hit list.

The rest of the market had a hangover session after Thursday's ebullient party. Footsie fell 52.7 points to 4218.8, cutting the week's gain to a marginal 1.1 points. The supporting FTSE 250 index fell 18, reducing its week's progress to 14.6.

New York did the damage. After trading strongly through most of Thursday it plunged sharply in late trading



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

and continued to wallow in the doldrums while London was open yesterday.

Racal Electronics enjoyed a late run as a variety of rumours flowed - ranging from a possible bid to the sale of a subsidiary. The shares jumped 19.5p to 268.5p with a few chunky buyers appearing as the market closed.

SmithKline Beecham and Zeneca lost their way in the general malaise. A rumour in the futures market that long-tipped bidder Roche had turned its sights on a US company added to the uneasiness. SmithKline fell 16.5p to 863.5p and Zeneca 38.5p to 1,635p. J Sainsbury made a significant

contribution to the gloom. The Footsie constituent tumbled 51p to 341p. Its poor trading statement contained a profits warning and it also produced, as feared, exceptional do-it-yourself charges. The Sainsbury setback unsettled other supermarket groups.

House of Fraser underlined the retail sector's problem, falling 3.5p to 143p. It is due to trot out its festive trading statement on Monday and MessPearson forecasts miserable growth of 1 or 2 per cent. Last year HOF announced worse-than-expected half-year losses of £13.6m. It should give details of its store closure programme.

London Clubs International spun 22p higher to 367p following its US expansion and GKN put on 10p to 998.5p on Merrill Lynch backing.

Williams Holdings was little changed at 333.5p. Barclays de Zoete Wedd sees profits for last year advancing to £327.8m.

Sears fell 2p to 86p as Greig Middleton said the shares were riding more on hope than judgement and should be sold.

BTR slipped 3.5p to 263p. NatWest Securities suggest it should buy in its 1997 warrants which offer the right to take-up shares at 258p. Such an exercise would cost £23m but send a clear message to the market that "management is determined to pursue the creation of shareholder value".

Big mover of the day, a remarkable 34 per cent gain to 231p, was English National Investment Co, the Joseph Lewis vehicle which has popped up as a 25.1 per cent shareholder

in Glasgow Rangers. More high-profile deals are promised. Enic last year acquired a 20.1 per cent interest in AutoNomy, which has a software package for searching the Internet. The shares were 47p a year ago.

Verity, with a new-style sound system, gained 3p to 37p after a presentation to institutional investors. Flying Flow-ers rose 2p to 202.5p; stockbroker Beeson Gregory is forecasting profits of £3.8m will be announced on St Valentine's Day. Electronic Retailing Systems, raising £5m through the sale of discount notes and warrants, held at 325p.

After the market closed TT, the mini-conglomerate, said it had sold its 8.46 per cent in Roxboro, the electronic equipment group. The deals appeared to have taken place at 183p, lowering the market price from 191p to 183p. TT's average buying price was 139p.

□ The Whitbread leisure group seems to have sold its 4.5 per cent shareholding in Surrey Free Inns.

The deal went through at 460p, a 20p premium to the then ruling market price. SFI, known for its Litter Tree chain, ended 21.5p higher at 460p, a peak. The shares are thought to have been picked up by institutional investors with Regent Inns, sitting on a threatening 6.1 per cent, not increasing its stake. This week SFI rolled out a 72 per cent interim profits advance and Martin Hawkins at Greig Middleton expects year's profits to come out at £2.3m with £3.5m next year.

□ Surrey, an unrelated betting group with golf ambitions, placed 21 million shares through stockbroker Ellis & Partners, raising £209,000. The price held at 1p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: Ex rights: Ex-dividend: Ex all UK Unlisted Securities Market's Suspended

pp: Parity: Paid pm: Nil: Paid Shares: £ AM Stock

Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

The index shows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange. Simply dial 0991 223 333, and when prompted to do so, enter the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0991 223 333 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FTSE 100 - Real-time 00
UK Stock Market Report 01
UK Company News 02
Foreign Exchange 03

Sterling Rate 04
Bullion Report 05
Wall St Report 20
Tokyo Market 21

Prevalence Issues 36
Water Shares 39
Electricity Shares 40
High Street Banks 41

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0991 223 333. For assistance, call our helpline 071 873 4376 (9.00am - 5.00pm).

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

| Stock | Vol | Stock | Vol | Stock | Vol | Stock | Vol |
|----------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Barclays | 200,000 | Shell | 100,000 | British Gas | 60,000 | Lloyds TSB | 80,000 |
| HSBC | 150,000 | BP | 90,000 | Volvo | 50,000 | Glaxo Wellcome | 50,000 |
| BT | 120,000 | British Telecom | 80,000 | National Grid | 40,000 | Glaxo | 40,000 |
| BT | 100,000 | British Telecom | 70,000 | Glaxo | 30,000 | Glaxo | 30,000 |
| BT | 90,000 | British Telecom | 60,000 | Glaxo | 20,000 | Glaxo | 20,000 |

FTSE 100 index hour by hour

| Time | Index | Time | Index | Time | Index | Time | Index |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| 09.00 | 4230.0 | 11.00 | 4229.0 | 13.00 | 4228.0 | 15.00 | 4227.0 |
| 10.00 | 4235.0 | 12.00 | 4234.0 | 14.00 | 4233.0 | 16.00 | 4232.0 |
| 11.00 | 4240.0 | 13.00 | 4239.0 | 15.00 | 4238.0 | 17.00 | 4237.0 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock | Price | Change | Vol |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Barclays | 333.5 | 0.0 | 100 | Shell | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| HSBC | 150.0 | 0.0 | 100 | British Gas | 60.0 | 0.0 | 100 |
| BT | 120.0 | 0.0 | 100 | Volvo | 50.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

Other Financial

| Stock | Price | Change | Vol | Stock</ |
|-------|-------|--------|-----|---------|
|-------|-------|--------|-----|---------|

Richards only has eyes for the One

They say there are four Gold Cup horses in Gordon Richards' yard, but the trainer has eyes for only one. It is something of a sadness for Richards that what he sees on the gallop each morning has yet to be replicated at National Hunt racing's defining crucible, the Cheltenham Festival.

One Man has ended up a portering foot, rather like a dehydrated distance runner, on his previous two visits to Prestbury Park and it has been a terrible sight for Richards. At 66, he continues to ride the grey in his home work, and is only slightly staggered by the beast going through the automatic gears beneath him. Others champion the causes of Unguided Missile, The Grey Monk and Addington Boy at Greyhound Castle, but the trainer believes they are just kneeling courtiers at the throne.

"It's a bit of a job placing all my horses," he said, "but the main thing seems to be finding out whether the grey horses like Cheltenham. He's in a different league to my others at home and they wouldn't get near him. But I suppose that the ground came up very heavy for the Gold Cup The Grey Monk could come there and very nearly run him out of it."

One Man has travelled out of the snows of Cumbria to determine if he runs in the Gold Cup at all when he makes a reconnaissance mission in the Puller Chase at the foot of Prestbury Hill this afternoon. The previous memories may be gruesome but at least Richards has developed an argument to excuse past failures. "The two times he has been to Cheltenham I know there have been

Richard Edmondson says there are no excuses today for the King George hero

problems to explain it," he said. "Neale Doughty will tell you that first time he made a bad mistake down the far side [in the 1994 Sun Alliance Chase], and last time I was like blowing a candle out. The petrol ran out very quickly and if a horse doesn't get the trip you expect him to press on a little more than that."

There can be no further excuses. One Man (3.20) would be giving his three opponents barrowloads of weight in a handicap and he must not only win, but win with a flourish.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Dublin Flyer (Cheltenham 2.10)
NB: Run Up The Flag (Doncaster 3.00)

Cheltenham's first televised race contains three horses which looked better in the Murphy's Gold Cup here in November (the only other horse in the handicap proper, Bradbury Star, can be discounted as he is beginning to run as if his mind is on a SAGA holiday).

Greyhound's representative, Addington Boy, was third to Challenger Du Lac that day, but the interesting runner is DUBLIN FLYER (nap 2.10), who went down as if he had hit a patch of black ice after four out while still coasting in the

lead. The 11-year-old now re-opposes on advantageous terms and comes from a yard that could send Long John Silver out to victory at the moment.

The Champion Hurdle indicator is provided by the Cleve Hurdle, in which Large Action (2.45) is difficult to ignore, particularly as he gets the opportunity to stretch his limbs over an extended 2m5f.

At Doncaster, the feature event, the Great Yorkshire Chase, has been diluted by the absence of Avro Anson, who is being saved for the Agfa Chase at Sandown next weekend. Easy Joker, who is also entered at Cheltenham, does take part however. Run Up The Flag (next best 3.00), another from an in-form stable, that of Josh Gifford, is the safest option.

Mighty Moss will be fancied in the previous race, despite losing his seasonal unbeaten record to Agistment at Uttoxeter last time. The consensus that day seemed to be that Mr Fred Huttsy (7lb claimed) was outbrided by Mr Richard Dunwoody (three championships claimed). David Nicholson, Mighty Moss's trainer, judging by his reaction when his rider returned, certainly agreed. Freddie's back this afternoon and if he has another nightmare the one to benefit will be the horse that was fifth in the 1994 St Leger, Ionio (2.25).

At Ayr, there is a reminder that racing is not the only way to flush out your bank account in the Stakes Casinos Handicap Chase. If the fates are among the crowd in the west of Scotland then Ayr's ABBY (1.00), who has not been out of the first four in five runs this season, must win.

Injured McCoy may be back for the Festival

The jockey Tony McCoy's hopes of riding at the Cheltenham Festival were considerably raised yesterday by a positive bulletin on the injuries he sustained in a fall at Wincanton.

An examination of the bones he broke in a heavy tumble from Speedy Snaps gave the

champion jockey "every reason to hope he will be ready for Cheltenham."

It was initially feared that McCoy, who suffered fractures in his left shoulder, faced a lengthy lay-off and would miss the biggest jump meeting of the year.

But, following a visit to specialist Michael Foy in Swindon, his boss Toby Balding said the prognosis was "not at all gloomy."

"I've not heard directly from Tony but I understand he has every reason to hope he will be ready for Cheltenham," said the

trainer. "He has got to go back to be looked at again in about three weeks time but this must be good news for him."

McCoy, 45 winners clear of Adrian Maguire in the defence of his jump jockey's title, had hitherto enjoyed a virtually injury-free rise to the top.

Ladbrokes Handicap Chase - Cheltenham 2.10

| Horse (Trainer) | Age | Sex | Weight | Form | Rating | Place |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|---------|--------|-------|
| Addington Boy (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 1 |
| Challenger Du Lac (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 2 |
| Dublin Flyer (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 3 |
| Easy Joker (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 4 |
| Greyhound (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 5 |
| Run Up The Flag (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 6 |
| St Leger (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 7 |
| Unlucky (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 8 |
| Wincanton (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 9 |
| Wincanton (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 10 |

Great Yorkshire Handicap Chase - Doncaster 3.00

| Horse (Trainer) | Age | Sex | Weight | Form | Rating | Place |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|---------|--------|-------|
| Addington Boy (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 1 |
| Challenger Du Lac (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 2 |
| Dublin Flyer (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 3 |
| Easy Joker (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 4 |
| Greyhound (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 5 |
| Run Up The Flag (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 6 |
| St Leger (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 7 |
| Unlucky (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 8 |
| Wincanton (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 9 |
| Wincanton (Edmondson) | 6 | M | 11-10 | 1-2-3-4 | 138 | 10 |

HYPERION'S

1.00: ALPS ALBI finished 13 lengths clear of third-placed Albi (f) when 2 lengths second to Stormy Coral in 3m handicap chase at Carlisle last time, looks the pick of the weights. Sotha may be the main danger.

1.30: LANCE ARMSTRONG, a creditable 3 lengths ahead of Albi in a 2m4f 10yds novice handicap hurdle at Leicester last time, has less to do here. Paperising may provide the most problems.

2.00: LORD OF THE WEST, who disappointed at Cheltenham last time, has every chance on his previous 3 lengths defeat of Philip's Wood in a 3m handicap chase at Leicester. Carlisle winner Crown Equestrian looks the principal threat.

CHELTENHAM

2.10: ADDINGTON BOY, most impressive when winning the Grade 3 Tripleprint Handicap Chase here in December, can make the most of the 10lb he receives from the veteran Dublin Flyer.

2.45: LARGE ACTION, who holds Moss, Fiddler and Right Win on Grade 2 Bala Hurdle running over 2m1f here in December, should hold too many guns over this, his best trip, for the progressive Castle Sweep.

DONCASTER

12.45: Cariboo Gold 3.00 Golden Spinner (nb) 3.35 Native Mission 4.20 Sealtie Alley 2.50 Mighty Moss

1.20: Cariboo Gold 3.00 Golden Spinner (nb) 3.35 Native Mission 4.20 Sealtie Alley 2.50 Mighty Moss

1.20: Cariboo Gold 3.00 Golden Spinner (nb) 3.35 Native Mission 4.20 Sealtie Alley 2.50 Mighty Moss

150 DONCASTER SPONSORSHIP CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE

1.20: Cariboo Gold 3.00 Golden Spinner (nb) 3.35 Native Mission 4.20 Sealtie Alley 2.50 Mighty Moss

1.20: Cariboo Gold 3.00 Golden Spinner (nb) 3.35 Native Mission 4.20 Sealtie Alley 2.50 Mighty Moss

1.20: Cariboo Gold 3.00 Golden Spinner (nb) 3.35 Native Mission 4.20 Sealtie Alley 2.50 Mighty Moss

3.35 MANSION HOUSE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B)

1.20: Cariboo Gold 3.00 Golden Spinner (nb) 3.35 Native Mission 4.20 Sealtie Alley 2.50 Mighty Moss

1.20: Cariboo Gold 3.00 Golden Spinner (nb) 3.35 Native Mission 4.20 Sealtie Alley 2.50 Mighty Moss

1.20: Cariboo Gold 3.00 Golden Spinner (nb) 3.35 Native Mission 4.20 Sealtie Alley 2.50 Mighty Moss

CHELTEHAM

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1.00 Darryidan 3.20 One Man 3.55 Lively Knight 2.10 ADDINGTON BOY (nap) 4.30 Chiodocari 2.45 Large Action

1

GUINNESS

sport

FOOTBALL: Despite enduring shattering disappointments with Sheffield United and with his current club at Wembley last summer, Crystal Palace's ebullient manager is still up for the fight. Glenn Moore reports

Bassett hounded by bad memories

Opinions are divided on Dave Bassett. As one manager said recently: "Some people think 'That Dave Bassett, he's a good manager. He took Wimbledon from the Fourth Division to the First Division.' But other people say: 'Nah, he's rubbish. His teams play all that long-ball bollocks'."

Afficionados of Bassett-speak might have guessed already that the speaker was Bassett himself earlier this month. He was just the same when we met up at Crystal Palace's Mitcham training ground this week: uncomplicated, unrepentant and, at present, under-achieving.

It is 16 years this weekend since Bassett took up management and, after six promotions, he might have expected to be in the Premiership. Had Palace, rather than Leicester, scored in the last minute of extra-time in last season's play-off final, he would be. Instead, he has to be content with managing a Palace side which, having scored goals by the half-dozen in the autumn, is now slipping in the First Division promotion race. One win in the last 10 matches has left them languishing in eighth place.

Today, however, the league is set

'There was a bit of action going on, a bit of kicking. You live by the sword, you die by it'

aside as Crystal Palace visit Leeds for an FA Cup third-round replay. For a predominantly young team it will be a test of character, but they need look no further than Bassett for inspiration. It was at Elland Road, 22 years ago today, that Bassett had a leading role in one of the great FA Cup ties.

Leeds were then the League champions. Wimbledon were in the Southern (now Dr Martens) League. They had already won at Burnley, then of the old First Division, with Bassett marking Leighton James — "he got kicked up in the air a few times". Then they held Leeds in front of 46,230.

"This is the first time I've been back there in a cup tie," Bassett said. "It was a great atmosphere, intense but enjoyable, even if our 300 fans were outnumbered. It was one of those moments you look back on as a non-league player."

After 83 minutes of increasingly physical stalemate, Bassett brought down Eddie Gray in the box — "a perfectly legitimate tackle, about neck high. Incredibly the ref gave it," he said. "Dickie Guy saved and it made him famous," he added, "but he never even thanked me. He went on Match of the Day, pocketed a £500 appearance fee, and kept it."

They replayed at Selhurst Park in front of 45,711. If anything, this game was even naughtier. Leeds having



Main picture: Dave Bassett at the Crystal Palace training ground. Inset: Bassett protects his goalkeeper, Dickie Guy, as Wimbledon hold Leeds United to a 0-0 draw at Elland Road in the FA Cup fourth round 22 years ago today. This afternoon Bassett takes his Palace side to Leeds for a third-round replay Photographs: Peter Jay/Colorsport

been upset by some of Wimbledon's post-match quotes. There was a huge punch-up after about 15 minutes and later on Bassett copped an elbow from Joe Jordan — "I deserved it. I flew off at the mouth once too often." He and Jordan are the only two still involved in League management from that tie.

"They were two very physical games. They had [Johnny] Giles, [Billy] Bremner and [Terry] Yorath in midfield, and there was a bit of action going on, a bit of kicking. But you live by the sword, you die by it. You gave it, you took it."

This time Bassett gave away an own-goal. "It was a shot from Giles. It was not a great one and I heard Dickie call, I tried to get out of the way but it hit me on the kneecap."

The modern Leeds are no angels — witness the mass protest that pre-

cipitated Bruce Dyer's penalty miss in the last minute of the first match. But Palace, too, have had a couple of dust-ups recently, a brawl at Norwich which is the subject of an FA inquiry and some egg-burg between team-mates Andy Roberts and Dean Gordon last Saturday.

"Sometimes people say 'your side don't show enough passion', then when they do it's 'hold on'," Bassett said. "Andy's upset. Dean's upset, there's a few words and for a few moments it's a bit tricky, but they didn't whack one another. It's like when you're married, your missus has a go at you and sometimes you snap. That's human nature, you're not going to change that."

"At Norwich it was two minutes from the end and there was a skirmish. There was punching and shoving but several players were trying

to break it up. No one walked away with a cut eye or claret all over them. Football's an emotional game."

"As for Leeds, well, the referee was a bit indecisive but Bruce had already scored one. To be honest, I've always maintained if ever a side of mine got two penalties in a game I would change the penalty taker — but that is the first time it has happened and I'd forgotten about it."

"I thought we played well the first game. Leeds started very well, they out-muscled us, then after 20 minutes we started to come to terms with it. I thought we dominated the second half and deserved to win. It's intimidating up there but it's a winnable game."

Bit of a shock, that last paragraph — how often has a "Harry" Bassett side been "muscled-out"? Bassett's teams have usually mirrored a

playing career summed up by the reference, in *Wimbledon — A Complete Record*, to Bassett being "the worst disciplined player". This in a season in which Wimbledon once had so many suspensions they could not raise a substitute.

The Norwich brawl apart, things have changed. When Bassett arrived at Selhurst, many Palace supporters feared the neat passing side developed by Ray Lewington would be sacrificed for a long-ball game.

"A reputation goes before you," Bassett said. "It amazes me that people think 'He can only play one way'. When I first took over at Wimbledon in the Fourth Division we played the sweeper system. We passed the ball about, I changed the tactics because I felt it would suit us better — and so it proved."

"You adapt. I couldn't play long-

ball with these players if I wanted to, they are not equipped for it."

"Not that there is anything wrong with it. Why not be proud of what you are doing, if you are being successful and the fans are happy? People say it's not in vogue now but there are several sides playing it. Wimbledon still play long ball and are very successful with it. Leeds play long ball."

"If the fans are not happy you have to adapt it, but who's to say whether you should play with sweepers, a back four, a long ball game, passing through midfield. There is no one set plan that is successful; if there was everybody would do it."

Bassett, who looks considerably younger than his 52 years, left Wimbledon in 1987 and, after an unhappy spell at Watford, spent eight years with Sheffield United. It was there

he suffered his worst experience in management when United were relegated in injury time in May 1994.

It happened at Stamford Bridge and I recall the atmosphere at the press conference being akin to that at an unexpected funeral. Bassett, whose team had lost 3-2 after being 2-1 up with 15 minutes left, seemed a broken man. "I was devastated. You want to go and hide. That [press conference] was the hardest thing in the world to do, but you can't sulk. It's part of your job. It was a bitter pill to swallow. If Chelsea had beat us 3-0 I'd have had no complaints... then there was the other results."

One of them was Everton's improbable comeback from 2-0 down to beat Wimbledon 3-2. The match is one of those at the centre of the current Grobbelaar-Fashanu-Segers match-fixing bribery case and Bassett added: "Reading about that keeps reminding me. You think: 'If Everton had drawn 2-2, they'd have gone down'. That result affected people's lives, it changed my life at Sheffield United. It affected players and the club."

"I can understand how Kevin Keegan feels, the disappointment

'No one walked away with a cut eye or claret all over them. Football's an emotional game'

that he did not win the title last year when he must have thought he was there. With hindsight, I was a zombie for a year afterwards. I thought I was there but I wasn't. I should have left Sheffield and started again."

Steve Claridge's last-minute goal at Wembley last year re-opened the wound. "I thought: 'What have I done to deserve this again?' I've had a few. Leeds the other night, the FA Cup semi-final at Wembley with Sheffield United when Mark Bright scored against us with three minutes left in extra-time. But in the Amateur Cup [his first Wembley visit, in 1974 with Walton & Hersham] we won with two minutes left."

"I wasn't sure how the players would react to last year but they are all young. I don't think they expected to make the play-offs. They all enjoyed playing at Wembley and I could see straight away pre-season that they had got over it and that helped me. I thought: 'Come on, Harry, no point in feeling sorry for yourself.'"

There has never been much danger of that. Less than half-a-dozen current managers have been doing it longer than Bassett. He is a believer in quality and, over the years, has rejected several offers, most recently from Manchester City. Yet he remains ambitious and, if Palace fail to realise their potential, Bassett's adoption of the passing game may help him achieve his.

MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| TODAY | Second Division | Unibond League | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 10 Blackpool v Millwall | Premier Division | Football League |
| FA Cup fourth round | 11 Burnley v Preston | 12 Aston v Maccles | Football League |
| 12.00 Blackpool v Blackpool | 12 Bristol City v Bristol City | 13 Bolton v Bolton | Football League |
| 1.00 Cardiff v Sheffield Wednesday | 13 Gillingham v Plymouth | 14 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Derby v Aston Villa | 14 Gillingham v Plymouth | 15 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 15 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 16 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 16 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 17 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Huddersfield v Middlesbrough | 17 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 18 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 18 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 19 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 19 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 20 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 20 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 21 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 21 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 22 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 22 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 23 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 23 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 24 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 24 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 25 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 25 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 26 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 26 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 27 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 27 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 28 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 28 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 29 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 29 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 30 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 30 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 31 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 31 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 32 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 32 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 33 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 33 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 34 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 34 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 35 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 35 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 36 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 36 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 37 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 37 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 38 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 38 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 39 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 39 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 40 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 40 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 41 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 41 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 42 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 42 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 43 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 43 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 44 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 44 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 45 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 45 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 46 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 46 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 47 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 47 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 48 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 48 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 49 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 49 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 50 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 50 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 51 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 51 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 52 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 52 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 53 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 53 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 54 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 54 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 55 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 55 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 56 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 56 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 57 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 57 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 58 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 58 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 59 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 59 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 60 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 60 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 61 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 61 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 62 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 62 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 63 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 63 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 64 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 64 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 65 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 65 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 66 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 66 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 67 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 67 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 68 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 68 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 69 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 69 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 70 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 70 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 71 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 71 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 72 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 72 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 73 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 73 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 74 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 74 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 75 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 75 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 76 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 76 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 77 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 77 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 78 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 78 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 79 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 79 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 80 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 80 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 81 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 81 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 82 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 82 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 83 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 83 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 84 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 84 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 85 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 85 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 86 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 86 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 87 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 87 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 88 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 88 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 89 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 89 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 90 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 90 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 91 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 91 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 92 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 92 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 93 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 93 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 94 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 94 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 95 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 95 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 96 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 96 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 97 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 97 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 98 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 98 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 99 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 99 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 100 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 100 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 101 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 101 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 102 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 102 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 103 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 103 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 104 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 104 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 105 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 105 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 106 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 106 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 107 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 107 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 108 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 108 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 109 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 109 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 110 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 110 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 111 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 111 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 112 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 112 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 113 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 113 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 114 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 114 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 115 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 115 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 116 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 116 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 117 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 117 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 118 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 118 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 119 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 119 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 120 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 120 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 121 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 121 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 122 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 122 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 123 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 123 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 124 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 124 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 125 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 125 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 126 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 126 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 127 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 127 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 128 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 128 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 129 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 129 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 130 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 130 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 131 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 131 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 132 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 132 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 133 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 133 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 134 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 134 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 135 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 135 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 136 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 136 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 137 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 137 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 138 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 138 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 139 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 139 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 140 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 140 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 141 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 141 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 142 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 142 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 143 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 143 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 144 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 144 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 145 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 145 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 146 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 146 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 147 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 147 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 148 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 148 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 149 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 149 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 150 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 150 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 151 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 151 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 152 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 152 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 153 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 153 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 154 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 154 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 155 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 155 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 156 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 156 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 157 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 157 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 158 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 158 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 159 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 159 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 160 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 160 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 161 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 161 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 162 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 162 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 163 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 163 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 164 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 164 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 165 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 165 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 166 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 166 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 167 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 167 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 168 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 168 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 169 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 169 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 170 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 170 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 171 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 171 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 172 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 172 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 173 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 173 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 174 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 174 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 175 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 175 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 176 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 176 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 177 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 177 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 178 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 178 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 179 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 179 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 180 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 180 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 181 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 181 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 182 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 182 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 183 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 183 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 184 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 184 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 185 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 185 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 186 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 186 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 187 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 187 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 188 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 188 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 189 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 189 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 190 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 190 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 191 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 191 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 192 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 192 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 193 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 193 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 194 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 194 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 195 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 195 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 196 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 196 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 197 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 197 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 198 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 198 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 199 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 199 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 200 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 200 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 201 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 201 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 202 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 202 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 203 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 203 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 204 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 204 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 205 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 205 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 206 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 206 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 207 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 207 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 208 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 208 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 209 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 209 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 210 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 210 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 211 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 211 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 212 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 212 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 213 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 213 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 214 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 214 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 215 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 215 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 216 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 216 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 217 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 217 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 218 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 218 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 219 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 219 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 220 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 220 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 221 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 5.00 Ipswich hosts | 221 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 222 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 6.00 Ipswich hosts | 222 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 223 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 7.00 Ipswich hosts | 223 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 224 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 8.00 Ipswich hosts | 224 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 225 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 9.00 Ipswich hosts | 225 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 226 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 10.00 Ipswich hosts | 226 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 227 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 11.00 Ipswich hosts | 227 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 228 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 12.00 Ipswich hosts | 228 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 229 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 1.00 Ipswich hosts | 229 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 230 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 2.00 Ipswich hosts | 230 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 231 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 3.00 Ipswich hosts | 231 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | 232 Bolton v Wigan | Football League |
| 4.00 Ipswich hosts | 232 Shrewsbury v Shrewsbury | | |

Stockport are the only club still on for a domestic 'quadruple'

Ironies occur as regularly in football as Stockport County change managers — Dave Jones is their 20th since the War, more than any other club — but the irony of County playing (and thrashing) Millwall last Saturday was more striking than most. "It's a big game, not easy," ventured Jones before-hand, which was obvious from the League placings of the two clubs: Millwall third, County sixth. What was not so obvious then but which certainly is after this week's goings-on is that football's scriptwriters appear to have a bit of a soft spot for the Hatters from Edgeley Park. Like everyone else, however, they don't seem to have much time for the Lions from the New Den.

Until now Millwall have not cared that no one likes them, but you can bet your bottom dollar they care now. Unfortunately the club don't have so much as a penny, never mind a dollar, to rub together, which is why the NatWest Bank called for

trading in Millwall Holdings to be suspended on Tuesday and for administrators to intervene to give the club's stockholders time to raise the necessary £6m to solve its dire financial predicament.

In 1989 Millwall were the second club in the country to be floated, with former chairman Reg Burdett maintaining: "We're regarded as a small club but we're actually a big club that has fallen into almost terminal decline". However, the Lions have never been as financially attractive as the Manchester Uniteds and Tottenham Hotspurs of this world, whose portfolios benefit from the prospect of pay-per-view TV and huge sponsorship deals; a lowly fifth in the Second Division and a £20m all-seater ground which is sold more than half full tells Millwall's sorry story. The words ideas, above and station spring to mind.

Of course, the irony is that although Stockport have had ideas

about their station — they have dumped two Premiership clubs out of the Coca-Cola Cup already, come within minutes of dispatching a third and are still in with a faint shout of reaching the semi-finals for the first time in their 114-year history — those ideas have come to fruition on the football field rather than in the finance market.

So while there might be a cold wind blowing through London SE16, in Stockport they're not so much feeling the heat as basking in it. And on Wednesday night, while Millwall fans were worrying whether they'd have either a pitch or a team to play on at next season, all Stockport fans were worried about when Southampton came to town was that the lagger was off.

In a week when money took centre stage again — at the New Den at Ilkley, at Newcastle, at Bournemouth and Peterborough even — it's refreshing to find a club

Olivia Blair



ON SATURDAY

who, as Graeme Souness admitted on Wednesday, "attempt to play the game the correct way". Souness meant on the field, but the irony was sweet. Investors may be falling over themselves to sink money into the fast lane of the Premiership, but for smaller clubs such as County, floating is an alien concept. Trying to avoid sinking is more like it. But although the club is not ex-

actly in clover, it's by no means a club in crisis, either. Wednesday's estimated gate receipts of £40,000 went some way towards recouping this season's £200,000 outlay on players; half of that was paid to Sunderland for Brett Angell, who with that surname was always going to be instrumental in bringing the Saints down to earth. And if money was a major problem, Angell's striking partner Alan Armstrong wouldn't have still been at the club, never mind on hand to score the equaliser. Armstrong's initials may be AA but he was anything but anonymous. "Super, Super A1," the fans sang as the scouts sharpened their claws.

But the 21-year-old is very much a part of County's plans. "If we had to sell to survive Alan wouldn't have signed a new contract," says club secretary Gary Glendonning, who admits that the First Division is County's prime target. Three years ago they failed at the final hurdle,

beaten in the play-off final by Burnley. "We weren't ready then anyway, the gap was too big," Glendonning admits. "But I believe we've reached a stage whereby we can be profit-making every year. You wonder at Millwall, or Notts County and Burnley, who both struggled in the First, whether it's a case of mismanagement. Maybe their wage structure was too high. Well, the revenue here far exceeds the wage bill, and with the extra money we'd get in the First Division from TV and gate receipts, added to the quality of our squad and facilities, we could definitely hold our own."

On current form it would be hard to disagree. But it's not just County's cup exploits that make impressive viewing: the feel-good atmosphere at Edgeley Park stands out as much as Armstrong's blond locks. The club may live in the shadows of more illustrious Manchester neighbours, but you wouldn't know it. County are

currently the only club in the country still on for a domestic "quadruple" (League, Coca-Cola Cup, FA Cup — they play Birmingham today — and Auto Windscreens Shield); their own foreign legion, in the shape of the Portuguese winger Luis Cavaco, is so well integrated he even eats regularly at the local curry house which has named two dishes after County players ("Durkan" Dhanak being the hottest); ex-Evertonian Jones is so relaxed he mans the switchboard on occasions; and their vice-chairman is the Mike Yarwood.

But with just two defeats in their last 30 games, Stockport County don't just give the impression they're going places — they really are. And they don't need a Stock Market listing to prove it. As Glendonning says: "We wouldn't swap place with Millwall for the world." Thank goodness there are still some clubs around who have their sights set on silver rather than gold.

Boro pushing to reverse fortunes

Football
MARK BURTON

There was confusion yesterday over whether Middlesbrough had lodged an appeal with Football Association against the three points taken away by the Premier League after their failure to fulfil their fixture at Blackburn four days before Christmas.

The club's chairman, Steve Gibson, and his legal advisers have spent the 10 days since the landmark verdict of the League's disciplinary commission deciding the grounds on which they will seek to overturn the punishment. The FA said Boro had lodged their intention to appeal, but a statement from the club's

solicitor, Simon Ledbrooke, suggested no firm decision had yet been made on the matter. The statement rejected as unfair criticism to postpone the game, and called a letter from the Premier League to discontinue the "misleading and one-sided".

In the statement, the club claimed the transcript of the original hearing, on 14 January, had yet to be made available and that, without seeing that, no decision on an appeal could be made.

Boro had the points docked and were fined £50,000 after calling off the match at Ewood Park at barely 24 hours' notice. Their manager, Bryan Robson, claimed 23 players were ruled out

of the game through sickness, injuries or suspensions. He said he was left with only 17 fit players, three of them goalkeepers and five who had not previously played in the first team. The FA was not persuaded by their argument at the original hearing.

Robson is also trying to ease another of the pressures on the Premiership's bottom club by giving Fabrizio Ravanello, the club's leading scorer, the benefit of the doubt over comments recently attributed to the Italian.

"I've got no problems with Fabrizio," Robson said, adding that the striker should keep any comments within the confines of the club. "Fabrizio doesn't really know how things work in England compared to the culture in Italy," he said. "He aired his views on the club and, as far as I was concerned, that was it."

Another club facing problems, Manchester City, have been given a lift by the decision of shareholders to support a new rights issue that could bring in £10.8m. City's new manager, Frank Clark, is keen to strengthen his squad and could make the Leeds defender Paul Beesley his first transfer target.

Nottingham Forest's shareholders do not now look likely to be able to vote on a club takeover as quickly as they expected. A £24m bid for the club by the Nigel Wray-Irving Scholar-Phil Soar consortium is now in doubt. They insist that their offer must be voted on by the shareholders by 13 February, but now Forest have angered the consortium by not calling an EGM of shareholders until 24 February.

Brighton supporters groups have stepped up their campaign for the FA to act against the ailing Third Division club's board by sending it a solicitor's letter. They claim Albion's directors have infringed FA rules and escaped punishment. Fans are asking Lancaster Gate officials to respond by next Thursday.

Villa flotation, page 22



Heads down: Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, (left) and Alan Shearer have a meeting of minds during training at Maiden Castle yesterday. Photograph: Emiles

Belgian FA under fire

European football

The Belgian Football Union president, Michel D'Hooghe, said yesterday he might resign over the way the Union handled the nomination of the new national coach, Georges Leekens.

"One of my closest assistants thought he should leak it to the press and I cannot live with that... I take this very seriously and if it becomes clear the executive committee believes the president did something wrong, I'm willing to lay down my mandate," D'Hooghe said.

Leekens was coach of the surprise First Division leaders, Mouscron, when the Union approached him to replace Wilfried van Moer. News of his nomination

was leaked to a newspaper on Tuesday, forcing the Union to sack Van Moer prematurely.

Belgian newspapers said D'Hooghe had been led to believe Mouscron would not object to the departure of Leekens. The First Division newcomers have a four-point lead over the title holders, Club Brugge. The case is particularly embarrassing for the Union, coming just before last night's match between Mouscron and Anderlecht.

Leekens first proposed to Mouscron he should combine the jobs of national and club coach until the end of the season, then said he would stay until after the Anderlecht game. But Mouscron, who learned of Leekens' new job only through the media, sacked him and

slammed the Union for the way it had lured their coach away.

"If Leekens was still coaching us for the Anderlecht game, it would have meant we approved the trick the Union played on us," their general manager, Willy Verhoest, said. Mouscron also told the Union it wanted compensation for the loss of their coach, whose contract ran for three more seasons. "The Union will not get off so easily," Mouscron's chairman, Jean-Pierre Dettremmerie, said.

Verhoest alleged the Union would never have dared to sign Leekens if he had been coaching. "In full battle for the title we're being decapitated, precisely by the mother [the Union] of all clubs. Incredible," Verhoest said.

Admiral's Cup team build solid platform

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER
reports from Key West, Florida

A first and a third for Graham Walker's Corel 45 Indulgence, steered by Luc Gelluscau, and a win for Tony Buckingham's 40-footer Easy Oars had the British Admiral's Cup team on a high at the end of the fourth day of Key West Regatta Week yesterday.

Walker is anxious to play down any success and emphasises putting into perspective any poor results. He is quick to remind people that a new team with old sails will need time to bed down in a boat he describes as "simple but difficult to sail".

Indulgence has the potential to rival its Corel 45 rivals, Walker says. He has been able to demonstrate in Key West that they can more than hold their own against the one-off designs of the same size which may be the chosen big boats of other Admiral's Cup teams.

Andy Beadsworth, helmsman of Easy Oars and now recovered from a stomach upset, said his first race of the day had gone well from the start. "We got a good start, went the right way and were holding, boat for boat, rivals that owe us time on handicap. I'm getting more used to sailing the boat. It's coming together."

In the second race they were shut out by the American yacht Flash Gordon, which is battling with Easy Oars for second place overall to Makoto Uematsu's Esmeralda, steered by Ken Read. The triple Olympic gold medalist, Jochem Schuermann, was able to ease Gray Kiger's Fatal Attraction into contention for yesterday's final race showdown. Having been knocked out of the Olympic Soling class semi-final by Schuermann in Savannah last July, Beadsworth was savouring the challenge.

Also facing a challenge is Ian Walker, the tactical half of the duo which won silver in Savannah, who puts his partner John Merriks on the helm of

Britain's Mumm 36, Tim Barratt's Bradamante.

Walker said he would be having to buy the beers after a day on which some of his decisions backfired. "I'm just making too many mistakes," he said, "but the good thing is we are not making the same mistakes twice. There's a lot to learn, but we are learning."

One Briton sweeping all before him is the Covese Etchells sailor Mike Law, who secured victory in the Mumm 30 class with a race to spare. With crew Ossie Stewart, Ian Tillet and the American Jud Smith (celebrating his 40th birthday), he has netted a seventh, two seconds and four firsts. Whatever his place in the 30-boat fleet yesterday, he could not be beaten. He was last seen assessing how big a piece of ice he should take with him to cool the beer.

More frowned upon would be ice with single malt Glenfiddich, the sponsors of the European assault on the Melges 24 class. Unfortunately their champion, the Italian Giorgio Zuccoli, has suffered with a disqualification and a premature start.

The final race will decide whether the sailmaker and the defending champion, Dave Ullman or the Star sailor and Dennis Conner's America's Cup mainsheet trimmer, Vince Brun, will take the title.

TODAY'S NUMBER

2

The number of skiers who recorded the exact same time in a women's World Cup downhill race in Italy yesterday. Heidi Zurbriegen and Isolde Kuster both had a time of 1:30.81sec, only the sixth time in World Cup history a race has been tied.

Slutskaya set to retain European title

Ice skating

Irina Slutskaya looked poised to retain her European women's figure skating title after her two main rivals flopped in the short programme in Paris yesterday.

While Slutskaya easily won the programme, pre-event suggestions that there could be a Russian sweep of the event seemed fanciful as her teammate, Maria Butyrskaya and Olga Markova, finished only ninth and 10th respectively.

Second and third places were held instead by Kristina Czaklo, of Hungary, and Vanessa Gusmeroli, of France. Her teammate, Surya Bonaly, the five-times champion, was sixth.

Slutskaya, who a year ago became the first Russian to win a women's international title, earned her marks of 5.7 and 5.8 from the judges out of the maximum of 6.0 for her programme.

Britain's Jenna Armstrong dropped out of the competition after finishing 29th out of 30. Tonia Harding might seek to skate for another country in the Olympics if US officials do not reinstate her. Her agent, David Hans, said yesterday: "It would be a distinct possibility." Hans will decide in the next few weeks whether to ask the US Figure Skating Association to rescind the lifetime ban it imposed on Harding for her part in the conspiracy to cover up the attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan at the 1994 American championships.

Athletics

President Suharto announced yesterday that Indonesia hopes to stage the Asian Games in 2006 and the Olympic Games in 2008, claiming the country's economy should have improved tremendously when both Games take place.

Carl Lewis, the twice Olympic champion, finished seventh over 100 metres at the Robin Tait Classic track and field meeting in Auckland yesterday. He was easily beaten by fellow American David Dukes, who won in 10.28sec and a field of mainly local runners.

Basketball

NBA: Miami 89 Toronto 87; Chicago 87 Cleveland 71; New York 82 Indiana 80; Orlando 71; New Jersey 81 New York 76; Golden State 79; LA Clippers 102 Seattle 100.

Baseball

MLB: New York Yankees 10 St. Louis Cardinals 9; Boston Red Sox 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves 10 Florida Marlins 9; Pittsburgh Pirates 10 Cincinnati Reds 9; San Diego Padres 10 Chicago Cubs 9; Milwaukee Brewers 10 Cleveland Indians 9; Detroit Tigers 10 Baltimore Orioles 9; Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10 Washington Nationals 9; New York Mets 10 Philadelphia Phillies 9; Los Angeles Dodgers 10 San Francisco Giants 9; Houston Astros 10 Texas Rangers 9; Atlanta Braves

Bassett hounded
Crystal Palace manager's mixed
FA Cup memories, page 30

sport

The Deano factor
Leicester meet Brive in the
European Cup final, page 29

Hednesford uphold finest traditions

Football
PHIL SHAW

By the time the draw for the fifth round of the FA Cup takes place tomorrow, some clubs could still be stuck in the third round whereas others should know who stands between them and the quarter-finals. As an American pundit said about the Vietnam war, if you're not confused then you don't really understand what's going on.

Two twice-postponed matches from the third round finally take place today, as well as three replays. The fourth round also gets underway, although sever-

al ties must wait a further 10 days. If any of the delayed games are drawn, replays can not be staged until the middle of next month. Weather, of course, permitting.

While the eventual winners are more likely to come from one of the weekend's four all-Premiership ties, in which six of the top seven are embroiled, the romance resides elsewhere. Despite the financial imperatives that forced Hednesford to forfeit home advantage against Middlesbrough, it remains a culture clash in the Cup's finest traditions.

To say that the clubs are separated by 79 places tells only half the story. Hednesford's squad cost all of £25,000, less than

Fabrizio Ravanelli's weekly take-home pay, and they hit the Wembley trail before a "crowd" of 486 at Wednesfield on a September day when Boro were winning in front of a full house at Everton.

The Vauxhall Conference hopefuls boast the time-honoured mix of decorators and accountants. Boro's line-up bristles with foreign stars, with the latest capture, Gianluca Festa, costing £2.7m from Internazionale.

The scouting trip to Staffordshire was undertaken by Bryan Robson himself. In contrast, the part-timers will rely on a report by a council traffic engineer, Steve Griffiths. Boro's 26 goals in six cup games suggest the

traffic will be one-way, but history offers hope to both Hednesford and Woking, who face an equally arduous task away to a Coventry side 81 rungs above them.

Six non-League clubs have put out opponents from the top flight, as Coventry, humbled at Sutton United in 1989, do not need reminding. Two managed it away from home: Altrincham, at Birmingham in 1986, and Wimbledon, then of the Southern League, against Burnley 11 years earlier.

All the more remarkable, then, that the latterday Dons go to Old Trafford with realistic hopes of upsetting Manchester United, the holders. United, striving to reach a record fourth

successive final, are plagued by injuries which Wimbledon are better equipped than most to exploit.

Alex Ferguson has to pair Gary Pallister with Chris Casper, whose father Frank was on Burnley's books that fateful day in 1975. The 21-year-old, yet to start a Premiership game, faces a baptism of fire-power against Marcus Gayle and either Efan Ekoku or Dean Holdsworth.

In the same position, if at the opposite end of the age spectrum, one of Ferguson's former *hétas noirs* is also in for an interesting time. Four months after leaving Aston Villa, Paul McGrath tackles them in Derby's colours. The 37-year-old

McGrath may have to tame Dwight Yorke - who "worships him", according to Villa's manager, Brian Little - if the tie is not to be the Baseball Ground's last.

While Villa have not won the Cup since 1957, their 40 years of hurt is nothing compared with Derby's wait, which is now into its 51st year although they did overcome today's visitors en route to the 1946 triumph.

Precedent also gives Chelsea encouragement for tomorrow's heavyweight collision with Liverpool. Three of the four ties over the past three decades went their way, as did the League fixture on New Year's Day. With both Gianfranco Zola and Steve McManaman

likely to be man-marked, a single goal could once more prove decisive.

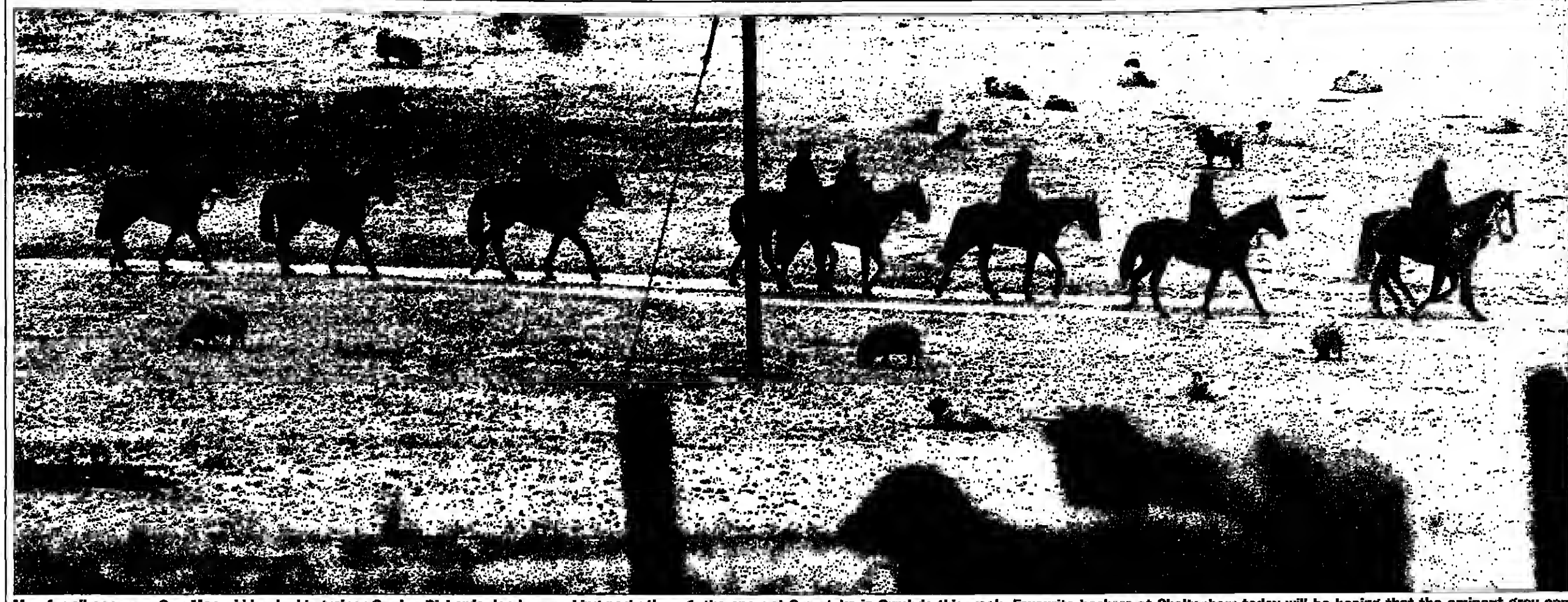
The Premiership's newest managers, Kenny Dalglish and Stuart Pearce, tangle on Tyneside. Kevin Keegan and Frank Clark led Newcastle and Nottingham Forest respectively when they met last month, the game producing the Magpies' only 0-0 draw in some 80 matches. For all Forest's improvement under Pearce, it is hard to see them enforcing a similar stalemate.

Defeat today would intensify the pressure on two other managers. Joe Royle's Everton have endured five consecutive losses, and with a visit to Newcastle looming on Wednesday

the 1995 winners can not allow Bradford City to leave unbeaten, as Stockport, Port Vale and York have in the past 12 months.

Everton may point to five finals in 12 years but they have found the fifth round beyond them in four of the past five. Nerve ends will be jangling whenever Chris Waddle takes possession in the early stages.

The heat is also on Harry Redknapp as West Ham - one win in 13 - resume hostilities with Wrexham for the dubious privilege of travelling to Peterborough. Meanwhile, Sheffield Wednesday, beaten at Charlton last year, have another hiding-to-nothing tie at the Third Division form team, Carlisle.



Man for all seasons: One Man, ridden by his trainer Gordon Richards, leads a working party through the snow at Greystoke in Cumbria this week. Favourite backers at Cheltenham today will be hoping that the eminent grey can again show his hindquarters to his rivals in the Cotswolds and re-establish his credentials for the Gold Cup in March. Today's racing, pages 26 and 27. Photograph: David Ashdown

Unseeded Moya faces Sampras inquisition

Tennis

DERICK WHYTE
reports from Melbourne

Thomas Muster is not a man easily humbled, but even he is bowing in reverence to the world No 1 Pete Sampras as the American stands within one win of his second Melbourne title and ninth Grand Slam win.

Only the unseeded Spaniard Carlos Moya, trounced two weeks ago in Sydney by Tim Henman, can stop Sampras's charge in Melbourne. But "Pistol Pete" is taking nothing for granted in tomorrow's final. "He beat Michael [Chang] pretty handily so he's very confident and he has nothing to lose and it will be a good fight," he said.

Two years ago Sampras played and won a practice tie-break against Moya, who was then ranked in the 300s, at a tennis clinic in Barcelona. "He's come a long way from the tie-break," Sampras said. "He's going to be tough to beat." Even if Sampras defeats the 20-year-old Moya, his own career will not be crowned until he wins the French Open, the one Grand Slam title to have escaped him.

Earlier, Sampras had left Muster gasping in their one-sided semi-final, which the American won in straight sets, 6-1, 7-6, 6-3. Sampras seemed incapable of mistakes as he stormed home in the final set. At one point several members of the packed crowd got to their feet and, arms outstretched,

heated double as though in the presence of a tennis god. It was not until Sampras pulled off a near-miracle, hitting a reflex backhand winner around the net post, that a humbled Muster himself bowed down.

"That was complete luck," Sampras said. "I just tried it and got away with it. I couldn't believe it came out the way it did."

Muster did not mince his words. "He is the No 1 player. He's confident and he's the best all-round player. That's it."

To underline the certainty of Sampras's victory, a spectator raised laughter by offering some encouragement to the world No 5 as Muster slumped to 1-4 in the third set. "You can do it, Thomas!" he shouted. Others in the crowd warmed to the

theme, earning laughs with "Play left-handed, Pete" and "Come on Pete, get serious".

Sampras admitted afterwards that he could not have played better. Whether he wins or loses the final, Moya has earned a place in the world's top 10. Moya, ranked 25th and with just one singles title to his name at the start of the Melbourne event, will rise to the world No 6 spot if he beats the top seed Sampras, or No 9 if he loses.

Moya's leap caps his rise through the rankings since 1994, when he finished the year ranked No 346. The unseeded Spaniard has claimed two of the game's best prizes at the Australian Open, the defending champion Boris Becker in a first-round upset and then the

second seed Michael Chang in the semi-finals.

Sampras keeps the top ranking even if he is beaten tomorrow, but Becker will drop out of the top 10, having been ranked at No 6. The Croat Goran Ivanisevic, who reached the quarter-finals in Melbourne before losing to Muster, will replace Chang as No 2, while Muster jumps to No 3.

Martina Hingis collected her first winner's trophy at the Australian Open yesterday even before playing her singles final. Hingis contributed her reliable groundstrokes and a solid volley to the attack as she and Natasha Zvereva of Belarus beat Lindsay Davenport and Lisa Raymond of the United States 6-2, 6-2 in the women's doubles final. The

match lasted less than an hour, putting little strain on Hingis on the eve of her singles final against Mary Pierce.

The British pair David Sherwood and James Trotman are through to the final of the boys' doubles in Melbourne. The second seeds beat the South African duo of Nicholas McDonald and Kyle Rudman, 7-5, 7-5, in the semi-finals and now face another pair from South Africa, the unseeded Jaco van der Westhuizen and Wesley Whitehouse, for the title. Sherwood, aged 16 from Sheffield, and 17-year-old Trotman, from Ipswich, had beaten the seventh seeds Artem Derepasov and Kirill Ivanov-Smolenski of Russia, 6-3, 6-2, in the last eight.

Peter Graf sentenced, page 2



John Carlin reports on a small...

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD
No. 3205, Saturday 25 January By Spurious

ACROSS

- Not exactly a well-earned rest (4, 5)
- Cold-blooded poisoner given support by firm (5)
- Old empire-builder managed to secure recognition of merit (5)
- The Prince designed, on winning award? (9)
- No more than one drink? Perhaps! (10)
- Sharp blow will make central heating work (4)
- Earth-shaking content of case is micromilled (7)
- Believed to appear in programme only on special occasion, they say (7)
- They'll usually remove caps and put on protective headgear (7)
- Items associated with Eton College, classical art (7)
- Australian can pipe (4)
- Awful pre-recorded entertainment in today's vein, maybe? (3, 5)
- Play running for a limited period? (9)
- Comedian has little hesitation in making bet (5)
- Frenchman initially wanted to begin again (5)
- Father's writing about old times in Rye - endless fits of laughter (9)

DOWN

- Bush growing wild around river, maybe? (5)
- Tall structure visible from main Place, possible? (9)
- Athlete's woolly reaching well below the hip? (4-6)
- Girl mostly stifling sob - it's synthetic (7)
- Fellow's left attractive engraving (7)
- Cloak covering head (4)
- Worker always busy on church in wood (5)
- Overthrowing a despot in New Zealand? (9)
- Anger occasioned by culling of marine mammals? (7-3)
- What wounded duellist may do in two-sent? (8, 3)
- Archer fish, say (4, 3)
- Rebbery at Cambridge preceded by verbal abuse (5-2)
- Bank less obscured by mist, perhaps? (7)
- Aristocrat presenting heraldic device to cricket side (5)
- Arrest for storing cylindrical spars (5)
- Pack given by bridge-player to left-hand opponent (4)

Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive handbaked copies of the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4012, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: 1 Macdonald, Rugeley; 2 Lynda Stanley, Victoria Garden City; 3 Frances Lammond, Thornton-Clevedon; 4 John Buxton, Hollingwood; 5 Cecil Baker, St David's.

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL, and printed at Mirror Colour Press, St Albans Road, Watford. Back issues available from Hicoria Newspapers, 0498 540170. Saturday 25 January 1997. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.

Lomu to fight kidney illness

Rugby Union

Jonah Lomu, the New Zealand wing who captured the sporting world's imagination when he almost single-handedly destroyed England in the 1995 World Cup, yesterday sounded his intention to bounce back from a serious kidney disorder.

The 21-year-old All Black was due to return to England next month on the Auckland Blues' mini-tour of Europe as part of their preparations for the defence of their Super-12 title.

But he told a news conference in Auckland yesterday that he had a rare condition known as nephritic syndrome which would require intensive medical treatment that will sideline him for at least six months. The All Black coach John Hart said he was hopeful Lomu would be able to make the tour of England scheduled for the end of this year.

The treatment will involve 60 injections and tablets a day and means he would not pass random drug tests. Asked what he thought about being given just a 50 per cent chance of full recovery, Lomu said: "It is the chance I've got to take and it is better than doing nothing about it."

"I'd rather miss out six months than miss out on a whole lifetime of living, really. I've had to sit down and have a

really good think about it with my wife Tanya, but it's something that I have to deal with. I've had a few knuckles in my career, this is another one."

Doctors suspect he may have been suffering from the condition for more than two years, possibly as early as his schooldays. "I lose a lot of the goodness that is in my body through my kidneys, and it's not holding," Lomu said. "It's making me tired a lot and I have to work a little harder to try and keep where I am."

Hart, describing the news as a major blow for the All Blacks, said Lomu had had his detractors over the last year. "And I hope that some of them may now sit back and reflect that he's a guy who has shown tremendous courage to try and continue to play," he added.

All Black doctor John Mayhew said Lomu was suffering from low body protein in his blood, making him more susceptible to infection and causing swelling during air travel.

"For the last 18 months he's been sort of dragging a cart around, metaphorically. He's managed to train and play, I'm not sure how," he said.

Doctors had been monitoring his condition, and it had not deteriorated markedly, but Mayhew said kidney specialists had decided it was time to act. Left untreated, the condition had a 10 per cent chance of regressing, Mayhew said.

20 trains a day.

Eurostar runs from
Waterloo and
Ashford, Kent
to central Paris or
Brussels 20 times
every day. So there's
bound to be one to
suit your schedule.

0345 303030
or see an appointed travel agent or railway station.

euostar

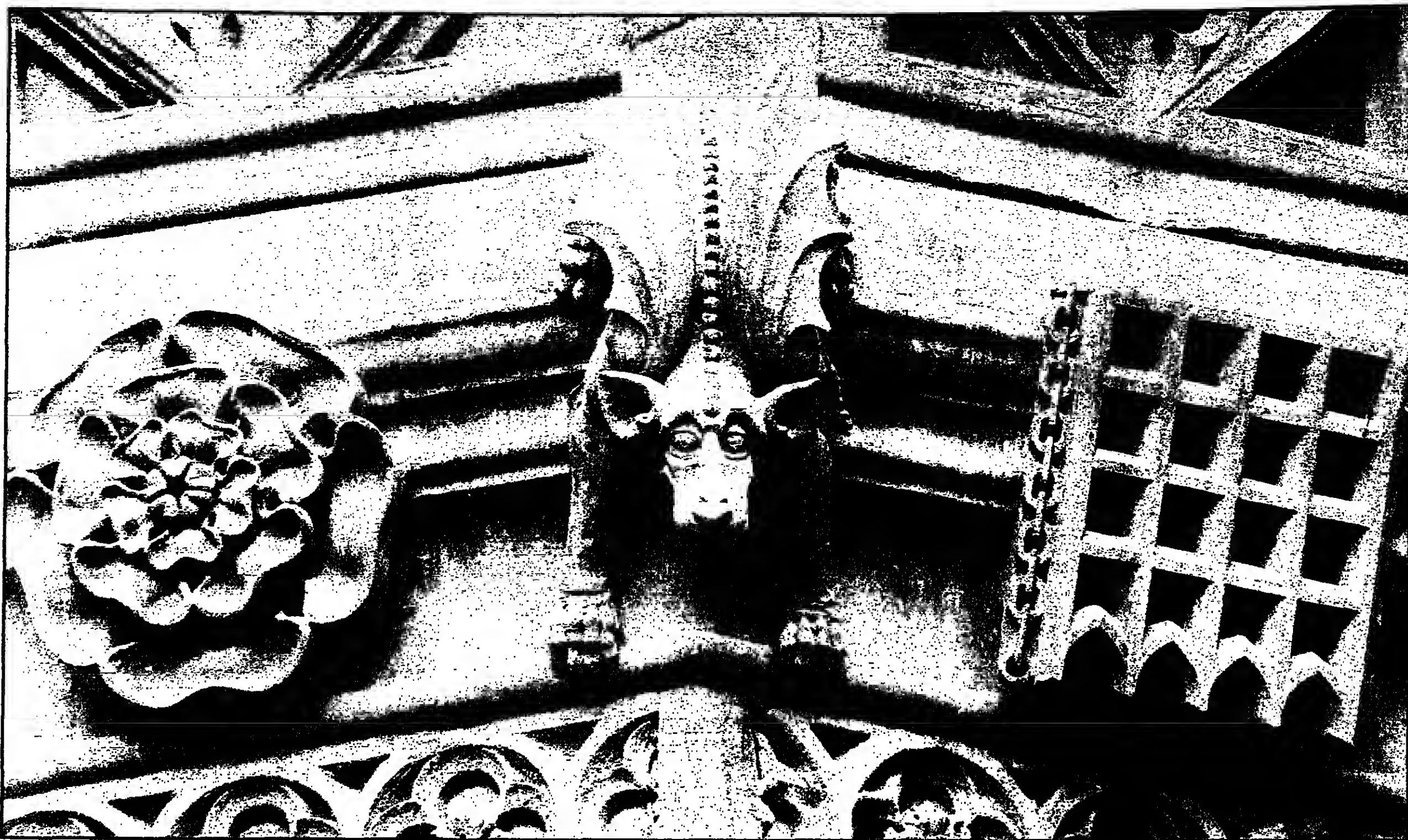


IMAGE OF THE WEEK After 25 years and £25m-worth of cleaning and restoring, the covers have come off Westminster Abbey to reveal the masonry in all its splendid clarity and heraldic beasts in their original snarling splendour. Photograph: Brian Harris. Taken with a 600mm lens with 160 ASA film, 1/500th of a second exposure at f5.6. To order a print of this picture for £14, call 0171-293 2534



the long weekend

THE INDEPENDENT • SATURDAY 25 JANUARY 1997

Everyone thinks they know what sex means, but most of us have no idea. We are all obsessed with the erotic (or the engaging) details and neglect what it really means. Sex is 3 billion years old so there hasn't been much chance of seeing it evolve. However, plenty of creatures have given it up, and they may be the clue as to how it began.

I like to think of sex as evolution's attempt to destroy monopolies. It is, in many ways, the same as tax. It allows the capital (biological or financial) of one lineage to be diluted among all members of the population.

When it comes to cash, everyone is in favour of asexual reproduction because it keeps money in the family line. Tax is the sexual reproduction of money. Its counterpart in biology is called recombination.

Perhaps, then, understanding taxes will help us understand sex. There are two views of sex: the capitalist and the socialist - views based on conflict and cooperation, and real parallels between reproduction of money and of genes.

Take 1815, and Meyer Amstel Rothschild. He became enormously rich by accurately forecasting the outcome of the battle of Waterloo. Some of his children had already married non-relatives. All the rest married their cousins and in the next 100 years 26 out of 30 Rothschilds chose mates from within the family. By marrying relatives who shared the same ancestors they reduced the recombination of their genes with those of other families and (no doubt coincidentally) the distribution of their family.

"Cousin marriage" is common, and getting commoner worldwide - particularly in Islamic countries. It means that children are more likely to have two copies of the same damaged gene descending through two paths of history from a single ancestor, and hence to suffer from genetic illness.

Take England, which is made up of small islands of people in a sea of trees. It is a natural laboratory of inbreeding with its own

WORDS OF THE WEEK

Here is another example of words written or spoken which caught the imagination this week. Today, an extract from a speech to the Royal Society by Steve Jones, Professor of Genetics at University College London. The subject: sex, taxes, slugs and why the Rothschilds married their cousins...

set of inherited diseases, many of which are confined to single villages. Tracing back the parents of those affected shows that all are relatives - perhaps not cousins, but certainly sharing a common ancestor in the recent past. No wonder it has high local frequencies of genetic disease. There is one, of which there are only 50 cases worldwide and all of them are in Finland.

Some creatures are much more incestuous than humans. Slugs are hermaphrodite. Many come in two different forms. A sexual one: boy-girl meets girl-boy; and one in which there is self-fertilisation: the male part of the slug fertilises the female part of itself.

This leads to a complete loss of genetic variation, as all genes become identical by virtue of shared descent. Just like the Rothschilds, the slugs pass on their biological capital unchanged to its offspring.

But why? When does it pay to give up sex to allow a sexual monopoly? Is there a pattern? Giving up sex is much more common in the north. If you draw a line from Liverpool across to The Wash you find slugs are asexual,

whereas they are sexual in the south. There is no sex at all when you get as far north as Scandinavia, in spite of rumours to the contrary.

The reason for this is basically economic. In the north the enemies are, predictably, cold weather and a shortage of food. One genetic type evolves which is best at coping with this easily predicted challenge each year.

In the south, the enemies are other creatures - perhaps predators, competitors or disease organisms. These are themselves sexual and can constantly produce new mixtures of genes which threaten the slugs. Just as with capitalism, once competition and innovation get started, you have to join in or go extinct.

There is a beautiful example of the dangers of monopoly in a freshwater snail, *Potamopyrgus jenkinsi*, which was imported by accident in a load of ballast in the 1880s from New Zealand to where Thamesmead now stands. Now there are billions throughout Europe, small, black and all female. Back in its home town in New

Zealand there are plenty of males in some places, and here they are sexual, but only in ponds, and only because there are parasites that infect them. They have to evolve faster than the parasites by reshuffling their genetic hand of cards through sex - or become extinct.

It serves as a perfect natural experiment on the origin of sex - as a capitalist tool allowing conflict and competition.

All this has dealt with what happens once sex has got started, and that once it has, it cannot be given up in the face of others who are still indulging in it.

There is a new idea, based on DNA repair, on how sex began in the first place. Every time a man has sex he makes enough sperm to fertilise the entire female population of Europe and enough length of DNA to go twice around the world. Chemistry tells us that DNA would quickly be destroyed unless it was carefully repaired every time a cell divides. The DNA repair is far more active in sperm and egg than in body cells, and much more active in females than males: males do the damage: females repair it.

Perhaps this is how it began in the first place - two single strands of DNA got together and compared notes. One was damaged by mutation and could check what repair to make by looking at the DNA of the other one - a sort of genetic proof-reading process. So that is perhaps what sex really means: death for those who indulge in it, as their own genes are destroyed by mutation in their asexually-reproducing body cells, but immortal life for their genes.

Next Wednesday is the deadline for those being taxed under the new self-assessment system. Given what I have said about sex and taxes, think of it as a second honeymoon.

INSIDE

John Walsh meets the Long Johns

Not so much a double act, more a way of life **page 3**

Vanessa Mae: Late, lovely and surprising

The truth of the viola player and the wet-look fiddle chick **page 4**

PLUS

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Games, crossword | 2 |
| David Lister's notebook..... | 3 |
| Arts and reviews | 4,5 |
| Books..... | 6-8 |
| Travel, outdoors..... | 9-16 |
| Gardening..... | 17 |
| Shopping | 18-20 |
| Motoring..... | 21 |
| Property | 22-23 |
| Money | 24-30 |
| TV, radio reviews | 31 |

Personal banking. Anytime. Anywhere.
Worldwide. By phone. Free.

Call us anytime on 0800 00 88 00. Wherever you are, CitiPhone Banking gives you free 24 hour access to your account 365 days a year.

CITIBANK
THE CITI NEVER SLEEPS.

Do not pass go 碁

Charles Arthur explains the attractions of an ancient oriental game

As a child, I used to enjoy chess. Any small boy can find something appealing in the game's medieval names and executionary gestures of capture, made across the conveniently-sized board. But how frustrating, as one improves, to find that the two sides' destructive efforts often leave them both unable to muster enough force to win, wandering the empty wastelands of the battle until a draw is agreed and the bloodshed can start afresh.

Now a touch older, I find chess a cramped, limited game, whose greatest complexity is in the wrong part – its rules. I prefer go, an Oriental game (Chinese or Japanese, depending on whom you ask) which is nearly twice as old as chess, but whose rules are far simpler and board far larger.

As you might guess, having simpler rules makes it harder. In fact, go seems to me a far better preparation for the subtleties of life than chess. It teaches the value of weighing tactics against strategy, and the diplomatic method of allowing one's opponent a small victory in order to win a bigger one later.

To the beginner, go has two advantages over chess. First, there are no fancy moves to learn. All the pieces (called "stones", either black or white) are alike, and remain where they are placed on the board unless captured. Second, a golf-like "handicapping" system lets novices play experienced players on level terms by giving them a calculated number of extra moves before the game starts.

The full board consists of a 19 x 19 grid of lines, giving it 361 playing points, compared to chess's paltry 64. (To simplify matters, beginners tend to start on a 9 x 9 board.) The object is to place the stones on points of the grid so as to surround unoccupied grid points – "territory" – on the board. The winner is the one with more territory when no more moves are possible.

The tussles begin as the stones accumulate. Placing stones on adjacent points of the grid connects them, forming a "group", which may be of any size. A group is "alive" if it encircles at least two separated points of the grid. Groups that are not alive can be captured by completely surrounding them, which nets one point per captured stone, plus the points of territory they vacate when removed from the board. Groups that are alive cannot be captured. So battles tend to consist of one side trying to make a group alive, against the opponent's efforts. The result looks, to the inexperienced eye, like a knitting pattern using Imperial Minis and Liquorice Allsorts.

At the end, captured stones are removed and subtracted from their owner's points total. The winning margin can be huge, or just half a point (White always plays second in go, and receives a start of five-and-a-half points in return). Which is another thing: you always get a definite result.

Every game is a voyage into a huge sea of possibility. There are an estimated 10¹⁷⁰ possible games of go, compared to 10¹²⁰ in chess. Go players operate on intuition and feel, based on experience; while tactical struggles do

demand careful reading, many moves on the open board cannot be criticised or praised, except in hindsight.

This artistic component forces one to consider subtle Japanese ideas such as "shape" and "efficiency" (how well a group of stones encloses an area), of a group of stones being "light" or "heavy" (meaning they can evade capture easily or with difficulty), of "thickness" (a group which can be used for attack) and "aji" (a Japanese word referring to the potential of apparently captured stones to cause trouble for the captor).

Such concepts are difficult to express in words, let alone computer programs. Thus, while there are plenty of go-playing computer games, none can beat a professional – there's a million-dollar prize awaiting the first person to write such a program. In fact, none can yet even beat a competent amateur on level terms – though they offer entertainment to learners and those looking for a distraction.

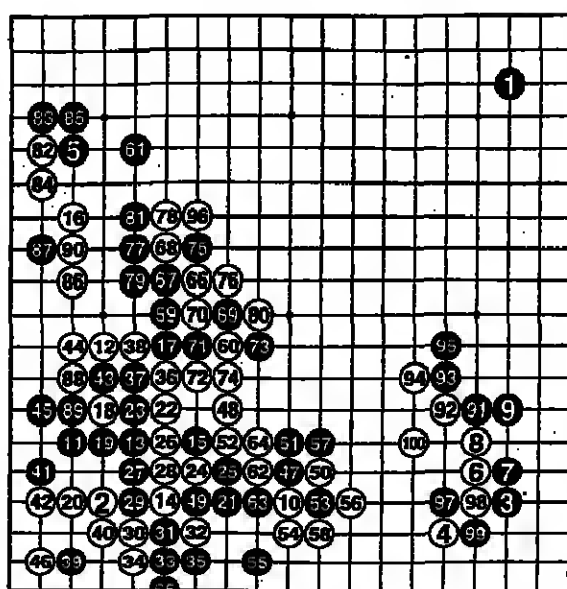
Those incapable (like me) of learning chess openings will be delighted to hear that go has no standard openings. There are common opening moves, but after about 40 moves – 20 by each side – the game will have barely begun, yet will be different from any that either side has played before.

The middle game sees battles and a general settling of territorial areas, and the endgame proceeds quite rapidly because there are fewer possible moves as the board fills up, though it becomes important to calculate the order of moves – at this stage, every extra point helps. A standard game between competent amateurs takes about an hour and consists of more than 200 moves.

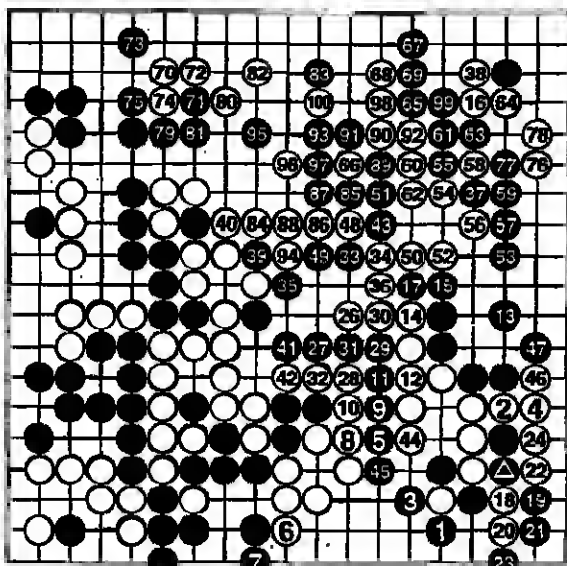
Go also forces one to develop true strategy. The size of the board means you can lose a sizeable group in one corner, and yet not lose the game, since you can start almost afresh elsewhere. Better players may give up a large group, or let the opponent gain territory, in order to win bigger gains elsewhere – the idea of "compensation". It is the requirement to consider the broader picture, weighing up events across the whole board, which makes go such a fascinating challenge.

A final recommendation? The thought processes that go promotes – of observing balance in one's forces, of letting the opponent win a little so that you can win a lot – closely resemble Japanese industrial strategy. Whenever I hear a manager compare business to chess, I know I am listening to a loser. The boss of Nintendo, for example, is a top-ranked go amateur; one of the first Western companies to win a contract from him got it when its boss – also a go player – offered a challenge game. In its way, playing go is like winning market share. You don't need to get everything – just more than the opposition.

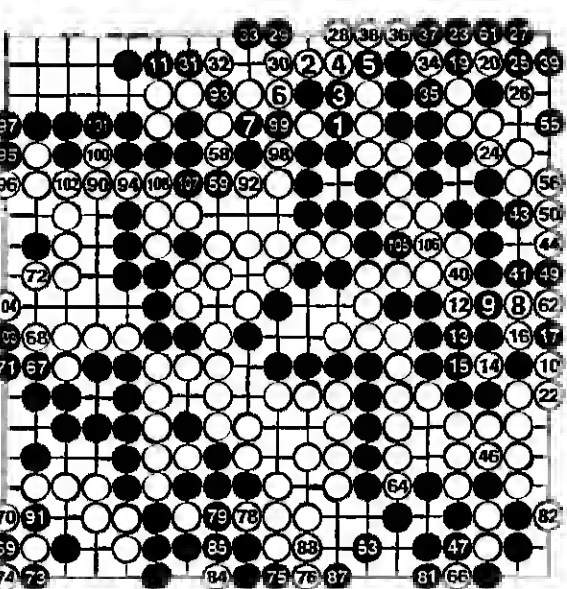
There are many local go clubs, and a number of schools where the game is played. Contact the British Go Association on the Internet at <http://www.brita.go.uk> or write to 6 Meynell Crescent, Hackney, London E9 7AS (enclosing a large sae) for more information.



The opening 100 moves of a British championship match. White has five groups in the bottom-left corner and centre; Black, in the bottom centre and left side. The top right is undeveloped.



Moves 101-200: the middle game develops the top right, which is shared between White and Black. The game is very close.



Moves 201-308: Black tries to kill White's top centre group in the endgame, but fails. All the same, Black (Matthew Macfadyen) wins the game (against Shutai Zhang) by 6 1/2 points.

Games people play

Pandora Melly discovers the joys of pyromania in Chelsea

Snootergrease*, 55, soft furnisher

I used to play a terrible game with my young cousin. We called it "setting fire to the attic". It was very modest – just little games of lighting fires in the attic. It was symbolic of wanting to set fire to everything. That's a good analysis, that is. Or perhaps not. We wanted to drop flaming water-bombs on the people passing along the streets of Chelsea. We'd heat up little paper kettles of boiling water over a little pile of twigs, then we'd throw them over the parapets. A combination of water, fire and air. A very complex and sophisticated spiritual exercise, and the passers-by complained. What it says is that we weren't wanted downstairs. On Sundays we children were sent away to Elsewhere, out of the way of the grown-ups. So we went upstairs and Were Noticed.

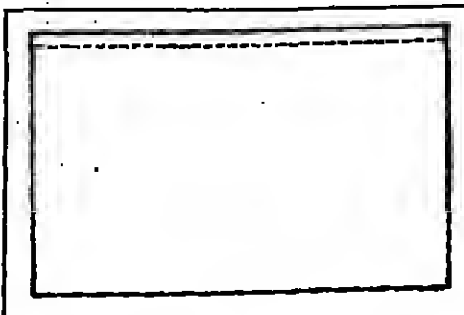
I don't recall any games at school. I went to Repton, and I think the purpose of its educational system was to take away any wish

to play. Playing has a pejorative element to it for some people, and for others it's frivolous. "be only playing," has two meanings. The point about games is that you win by working within a set of rules. Chess is very beautiful because the rules are so inflexibly laid down that there is no possibility of cheating. It is about the potential of various sequences of moves, most of which would be mindless. It's a game without chance. When you get on to the Parochial Church Council, you also have a set of rules, but they're open to interpretation. The present game is that I am not playing games any more. I would like to go back to cleaning the silver.

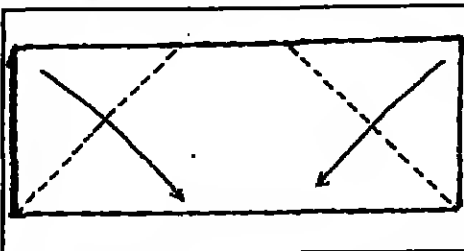
*Snootergrease is the pseudonym of a world famous interior designer. Fire extinguishers are available from £35, delivered free by Triangle Fire Protection (0800 581205). 'How to Cheat at Chess' by William Hartston (Cadogan Books) costs £4.99.

Don't junk it ... use it

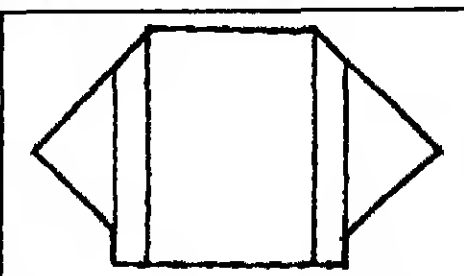
Your all-purpose spill-free envelope for salt or seeds



2. Fold bottom edge of paper up to the top, tucking it in beneath the earlier fold. Then turn the paper over.

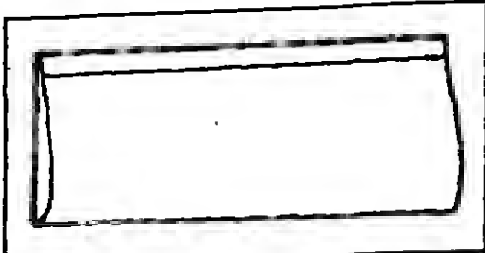


4. Fold bottom corners up to meet the top ones and tuck in under the flaps.

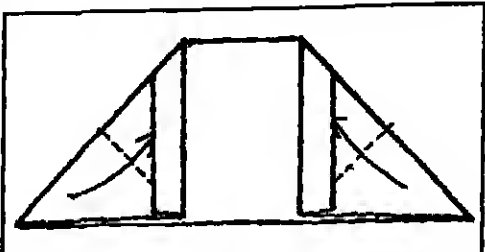


It's hardly the weather for a picnic, but this simply-folded envelope, originally designed to take salt and pepper into the woods, makes an equally good container for seeds, small gemstones or anything else delicate and spillable.

1. First fold down the top edge of a sheet of paper (half a sheet of A4 is a good size to try for a small, neat envelope at the end).



3. Fold the top corners down so that what were the right and left edges now line up with the bottom.



5. You will now notice that it is too late to put anything into your envelope. So undo one of the ends, insert your precious gems/salt/pepper/seeds and close the package again. Save until the weather improves.

Bawn O'Beirne-Ranelagh

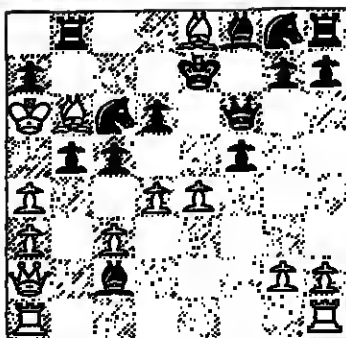
New game of the week

Would you understand if I said: "The verge gin nylons" or "Main BA, vain bard lay"? The first's a place, the second's a television programme. Are you with me? It's the Virgin Islands and *Men Behaving Badly*, of course. If you like this sort of thing, you'll enjoy *Babble On*, from Waddingtons (around £19.99), though you'll still wince at such examples as *police pea cough tethered own*.

(Please speak after the tone) and *glee hop at rare sneeze doll* (Cleopatra's Needle). Always ingenious, sometimes inspired (like *pig knicker Tanga Wok for Picnic* at Hanging Rock), but if the above examples make you want to a *Mig* great two new seal learned then *Babble On* is *deaf innately knot Toly wrecker merited*. Best played when at least mildly inebriated. If not *peace daz Canute*.

The games page is edited by William Hartston

Chess William Hartston



We made the Christmas chess problem on too easy, it seems. The problem was to reach the diagram position after White's 19th move. As several entrants pointed out, it can be done in 18. The 19-move solutions generally have a white knight captured on a3 by a bishop, which is then taken by a pawn. The black e-pawn then promotes

to a bishop on g1 and heads back to f3 via c3. Only after all that can Black play d6.

The ingenious 18-move answers have the black pawn promoting to a queen, which then takes the knight on a3. For example: 1.d4 e5 2.Bd2 e4 3.Ba5 c3 4.a4 exd2+ 5.Kd1 feg1=Q 6.Kc3 d6 7.Na3 Qe3+ 8.Kb4 Qxa3+ 9.bxa3 Bf5 10.c3 Bc2 11.e4 f5 12.Qb1 Qf6 13.Bb5+ Ke7 14.Be8 b5 15.Bh6 c5+ 16.Ka5 Nc6+ 17.Ka6 Rb8 18.Qa2.

All the 18-move and 19-move answers went into the winner-generating hat, and the following names emerged: Laura Fraser (Inverness), Stuart McMenemy (Glasgow), MP Young (Highbridge, Somerset). They will all receive a copy of the splendid *Chessmaster 3000* on CD-Rom.

Perplexity

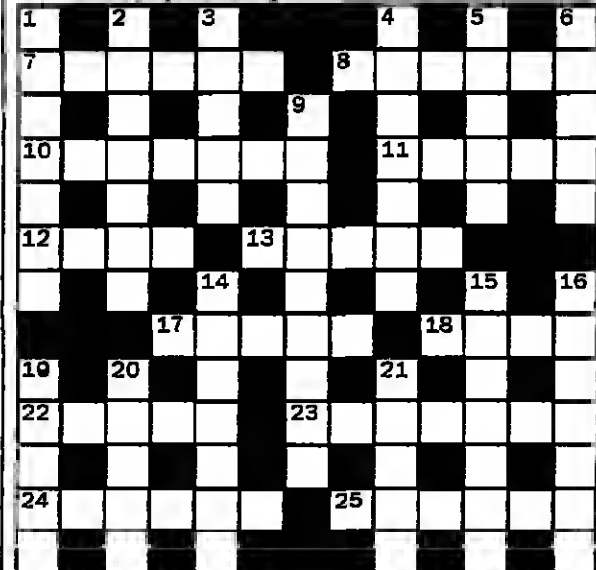
The 10 "26 L of the A" (Letters of the Alphabet) teasers we set a fortnight ago proved a difficult set, though several entrants showed admirable ingenuity when they couldn't think of the right answers. We have been as generous as possible in accepting alternatives to our intended solutions, which were as follows: 1 Atomic Number of Hydrogen, 2 Fingers in a Rude Gesture (or Fifteen in a Rugby Game), 3 Bowls of Porridge Goldilocks Tasted, 4 Fingers on a Hand (Excluding the Thumb), 5 O'clock Shadow, 6 Geese a-Laying, 7 Points for Potting a Black in Snooker, 8 Ranks on a Chess Board, 9 Tailors of Dorothy L. Sayers, 10 Toes on Your Feet.

The winner is Peter B Dodson (Draycott, Derby). Now try these:

11 OW by BH
12 L of H
13 C in a S
14 D in a F
15 R B in S
16 O in a P
17 S in a H
18 F K N L
19 T T D
20 N O a D B
The first correct set of answers (or the best attempt) opened on 5 February will win a copy of the new *Chambers 21st Century Dictionary*. Answers to: Perplexity, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

concise crossword

No.3205 Saturday 25 January



ACROSS

- 7 Fails to hit (6)
- 8 Defeated (6)
- 10 Human rights campaigning organisation (7)
- 11 Paramour (5)
- 12 Of sound mind (4)
- 13 Meat dishes (5)
- 17 Principal (5)
- 18 Indian dress (4)
- 22 Newspaper exclusive (5)
- 23 Plunge into liquid (7)
- 24 Young animal (6)
- 25 Receive (6)

DOWN

- 1 Foreign legion (7)
- 2 Foolish (7)
- 3 Banquet (5)
- 4 Shouts loudly (7)
- 5 Cooker (5)
- 6 Motionless (5)
- 9 Artificial (9)
- 14 Section of book (7)
- 15 Obstacle (7)
- 16 Freedom (7)
- 19 Japanese city (5)
- 20 Scottish river (5)
- 21 Protective garment (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Greens, 2 Leaves (Green leaves), 3 Neon light, 4 Lean, 5 Rain, 6 Firm, 7 Yachtman, 8 Throat, 9 Hoity, 10 Down, 11 Collar, 12 Eaten, 13 Soma, 14 Letter, 15 Ache, 16 Spongy, 17 Antler, 18 Furgul, 19 Yeast, 20 Pined, 21 Submit, 22 Sachet, 23 Reason, 24 Namely, 25 Male, 26 Yacht.

Bridge Alan Hiron

Today we complete our discussion of the questions in the Christmas Competition.

In question 4, as South with East-West vulnerable, you held:

♠ K Q 3 2
♥ J 9 7
♦ Q 4
♣ 10 9 7 3

West North East South
pass double 2♥ pass

Having decided to pass partner's second take-out double, what do you lead? ♠ 2, ♦ Q, ♠ 10, ♣ 3 or something else?

It seems likely that your partner has some heart length and, to protect his holding, a trump lead suggests itself. In case he has a singleton or doubleton honour, a low spade seems best – it is unlikely, after all, that you will make more than two natural trump tricks, and you will still have them after the lead of ♠ 2. This would have my vote and, at the table, would have led to a penalty of 800 points. In practice, partner led ♦ Q and we now had to work hard to collect 200. I suppose that a club lead is a possibility, with the ten looking less unattractive than the three, and leading to the same +200. Nothing else appeals.

In the final question, as West you had opened INT (15-17 points) and had been raised directly to 6NT

against which North has led ♣ 9. How should you play?

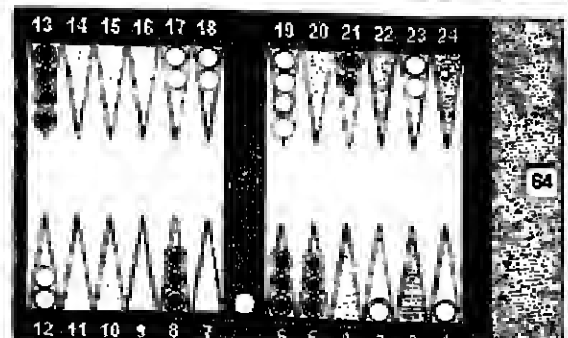
West East
♠ K J 9 ♠ 10 7
♥ A J 4 ♥ K 8 3
♦ Q 8 4 ♦ A K J 10 3
♣ A J 10 2 ♣ K Q 6

You have 11 top tricks and the twelfth could come from a variety of sources: a straightforward heart finesse, a favourable view in spades, or even some sort of end-play if either defender holds something in spades and the guarded ♥ Q.

A pleasing idea, which worked at the table, was to win the club lead in dummy, dropping the ten from hand and suggesting that you held only three tricks in the suit, and immediately lead ♠ 10 to the king! Consider, if South holds the ace or covers with the queen you are home and dry.

If North holds the ace (needless to say, without the queen) he may, if he is a good defender, duck in case you hold K, Q, 9 and will now have a nasty guess on the second round of the suit. Finally, even if North does win with ♠ A and does not continue the suit, you will have the heart finesse in reserve. Winners: AJ Oddie, Frank Wharton and Tony Gladstone, who will each shortly receive a prize of *The Complete Book of Bridge Tips*, compiled by Sally Brock, and soon to be published by Chess & Bridge Ltd (369 Euston Road, London NW1), who have donated the prizes.

Backgammon Chris Bray



This was Problem 2 in the Christmas quiz. Black on roll, should he double? Should White accept? This is a problem from two-time world champion Bill Robertie's excellent instructional book, *Advanced Backgammon*. Let us listen to his reasoning: "This is a typical benchmark double in the opening. Black has three key ingredients for a strong double: 'A superior front position, with the 5-point already made. Black's game has both priming and attacking potential."

"A strong defensive anchor, guaranteeing that, should things go badly, he cannot be redoubled any time soon."

"Some immediate threats. All his doubles play well. Six rolls make the 3-point. Six rolls make the 4-point. Two rolls make the bar-point. Two rolls make the 1-point. The other 14 rolls which don't make a good point at least hit loose on the 3-point, putting two men in the air."

"Should White take when doubled? The answer is: no. The key here is White's two men out of play on his 2-point. Although White is quite likely to survive the immediate priming/blitzing threats and emerge with a defensive anchor, his game will then be stripped of playable men and quite unpromising."

So the quiz answer is double/drop. For those wanting to gain a real understanding of backgammon and improve their game significantly I recommend *Advanced Backgammon*. Its two-volume set covers both tactics and strategy. Details can be obtained from: Gammon Press, PO Box 294, Arlington MA 02174, USA, fax: 001-617-641-2660. A copy will go to our first prize winner, Raymond Kershaw (London NW6). Runners-up prizes of *The Backgammon Handbook* and *Backgammon in a Week* go to Paul van Mil (Lytham St Annes) and KR Gowers (Chester).

TURN TO PAGE 31 ... for the weather, sky at night, Jasper Rees on TV, Robert Hanks on radio and Damien Hurts the cartoon sage of artistic angst

Photograph: John Lawrence



Two clever by half

John Walsh meets... The Long Johns



Last Friday, two men in suits walked onto the stage of the Hexagon theatre in Reading, and proceeded to tell the audience some news from their own backyard: that, unknown to most of Reading's citizens, one of its two hospitals, the Royal Berkshire, was about to be shut down. That, as an early warning of what was in store, the hospital had closed down its Accident & Emergency Unit on two occasions in the last two weeks (and if you rang the NHS's press office for confirmation, you'd hear them say, "Yes we did close down the A and E ward - but we didn't tell anyone," as if that made it more acceptable). And in place of the Royal Berkshire, the audience heard, plans are now afoot to build a huge public-service complex that will feature two multi-storey car parks, an office block, a restaurant, a shopping mall and a health farm, but nothing of any actual medical use at all.

"We've talked to local journalists, of course, and it's news to them," Bird said with satisfaction. "It's very odd when you can just turn up at a theatre and tell the audience what's happening to them..." It is indeed odd. There's something almost medieval about a brace of travelling players arriving in town with news for the townsfolk about their own fate. It's a combination of news, entertainment and plain shock that no other arts medium offers. But spicing the convivial bowl with harsh facts from the real world is what John Bird and John Fortune do best. Their monologues in which one of them interrogates the multi-faceted George Parr, fixer, trouble-shooter, spin doctor and apologist supreme - started as five-minute chais on Rory Bremner's comedy show in 1992. Then Channel 4 gave them an extended 15-minute slot, for the fuller version of their monologues, around midnight, and were persuaded to move it earlier. A book of the scripts followed last autumn, entitled *The Long Johns*.

Now they've taken the show on the road, for a six-date tour (Reading was the second; still to come are Leeds, Newcastle, Wimbledon and High Wycombe), appearing on stage with two armchairs, two lapel mikes and a droll warm-up man called Mike Meier. The first gig, in Bromley, drew an unprecedented burst of applause from the *Guardian's* veteran critic, Michael Billington. Only a best-selling CD and a phone call from Paramount Studios ("Arnold is very keen to read for George Parr...") seem currently beyond the range of possibilities facing this unlikely twosome.

Satire, of course, depends on taking a portion of the truth - a physical detail, a malevolent tendency - and subjecting it to relentless expansion until it enters a realm of moral absurdity; Swift's babies-for-supper pamphlet, a *Modest Proposal*, is still the template for the whole genre. Bird and Fortune have the technique cold - "When you're suffering a cardiac arrest," one of them asked the other on the Hexagon stage, "what's the first thing you need when you get to the hospital? That's right - a parking space" - but so smoothly plausible is the language of their lethal antipathies that many people have been fooled. When they made their first appearance on Rory Bremner's newly politicised comedy show, some viewers couldn't tell if a) the dialogue was faithfully transcribed from a real conversation with this or that ministry; b) wholly invented but with a core of genuine statistics; or c) completely made up, figures and "facts" included. "Our favourite phone call to the duty officer [the person who monitors viewers' complaints at a television station] was when somebody'd ring up and say, 'Look, is this real? Or is it meant to be funny?'" Fortune said with delight.

The two Johns have been meaning to be funny for some 36 years now. They come across as a neatly complementary pair: Bird is short, serious and mildly irascible, as if beset by a constant neural itch; Fortune is bulky, humorous and genial, beset only by a desire to buy you a drink. Bird drinks 10-alcohol things, smokes and does most of the talking and ad hoc theorising. Fortune drinks Guinness, doesn't smoke and cuts in with droll anecdotes. Bird, who was noted in the mid-Sixties for his seamless impersonations of Harold Wilson, now bears a distinct look

of Neil Kinnock. Fortune, with a mouth as thin as a razor-cut and a spectacular cocked eyebrow like an astonished pigeon, looks born to play Perplexed Bystander roles.

"When were they last on tour?" "Never," Bird said with distaste, "but of course John here is the Man of the Theatre." "I was in *On Approval*," Fortune said dreamily, "that old thing by Frederick Lonsdale, four or five years ago. I toured for 11 weeks. It was a fairly major disaster. The touring was... awful." It is not, however, for actorish tales of seaside landladies and weekly rep that you sit in with the two Johns. Professional satirists for half a lifetime, they talk in an unbroken succession of conjectures and sarcastic riffs on the week's political news. On the Millennium dispute, for instance: "That picture of Heseltine being driven to Tony Blair's office, Bird said with a genuine chuckle, "You realise their people must have spent all day trying to decide who goes to whose office. It shows Heseltine's desperation... You just know he's been knocking these captains of industry's heads together, saying, 'You know your knighthood's out of the window if you don't cough up the money.'"

"It's something that both sides are likely to talk up because it's not really controversial," Fortune said. "It's like constitutional reform. In both cases the real question is 'Who gives a shit?'" "But John Major does," said Bird. "He gets all pink when he starts talking about 'The Union'. It's the one thing he gets absolutely passionate about. I don't know why." I suggested it was because the 1951 Festival of Britain was a Labour initiative and the PM wants to make sure the Millennium is a Tory Millennium. Bird: "So that every time you see the dome you'll think of John Major?" Fortune: "Particularly if there's nothing in it."

What did they look forward to satirising under a Labour administration? "Rather the same things as we do already," said Bird with his clubman's chuckle. "You know how everything is supposed to be about 'instinct' now? The Tories say, 'Yes it is true that we put up taxes but our *instinct* is to cut them. In Labour, it's the other way around. No, they say, we're not going to spend more money on the Health Service, although our *instinct* is to do so. They're dying to show that their hearts are in the right place." "And now they've started talking about 'trust'," Fortune said, adopting his the-world's-gone-mad expression. "Tony Blair said, 'This election is all about trust.' Trust in what?"

"Trust our instincts," Bird explained. "They're saying 'Do you believe us when we say we would like to do this but we can't? Or do you really think we just don't want to?' Believe me, Labour governments in the future will be about the things which they'd like to do but can't."

The main focus of their scorn, as regular viewers will know, is not necessarily the pursuit of a malign policy but the use of rhetoric to defend the indefensible. Again and again they come back to words: "Customer services when it means ignoring the customer completely. Offering people a 'choice' when the choice is 'You can have it if you can afford it.' And 'We have made our position absolutely clear'..." They were incensed by Labour's claims that Kenneth Clarke was going to impose VAT on food. No evidence was advanced to corroborate this accusation. "This is not about policy," Bird said. "It's about the shadow of policy. Labour said 'Well it's true they never said they were going to put VAT on food - but it's the sort of thing they'd like to do.'"

"We have made our position absolutely clear..." They were incensed by Labour's claims that Kenneth Clarke was going to impose VAT on food. No evidence was advanced to corroborate this accusation. "This is not about policy," Bird said. "It's about the shadow of policy. Labour said 'Well it's true they never said they were going to put VAT on food - but it's the sort of thing they'd like to do.'"

They met at Cambridge in the late Fifties, Bird was from Nottingham, where his father managed a chemist's shop; Fortune, two years younger, came from Bristol, the son of a commercial traveller, and both read English at King's. Fortune remembers walking down towards the Arts theatre with a second-year student, who suddenly clutched his arm and pointed at a little cottage with a steamed-up window. "Look!" he hissed. "It's John Bird." "Who?" Fortune asked. "He's a brilliant director," gushed his friend. "He's just like Brecht."

Bird was, Fortune explained, that peculiar thing, a very famous undergraduate. Bird directed the Cambridge Footlights company in his last year; Fortune did likewise. In his middle year, he directed and

wrote for a not-untalented newcomer called Peter Cook whose apotheosis in *Beyond the Fringe* was two years in the future. Fortune gave the fledgling show the first notice of its London run, in the pages of *Cambridge Review*.

When you're looking for clues as to why these two talented men emerged from university to spend their entire working lives mocking the political orthodoxies of Westminster and Whitehall, and subverting the language of political control, it's tempting to screech to a halt at the words "FR Leavis". Leavis, who insisted that the teaching and appreciation of English literature was a lesson in profound morality, tutored both men at different times in their university career. If anyone could be responsible for insisting on the primacy of truth in a jungle of tentacular logic and slithering rhetoric, it'd be he. But, typically, Bird and Fortune played down his effect on them into anecdote. "I used to go to seminars at Downing, his college," Bird said, "just two Downing undergraduates and I. We never exchanged a word during the first seminar, but as I left he rushed after me and said, 'Mr Bird, I'd appreciate it if you didn't tell people about coming to me from outside the college. My colleagues at Downing are not happy with me. I'm on the ground floor, and they look through my window as they pass by, and they say, 'There's old Leavis - raking in the fees again.'"

I asked if he was as earnest and serious as his image suggested. "No, no," said Fortune. "He was wonderfully down to earth. He once told me [Fortune adopted an accent disconcertingly like that of Enoch Powell, MP] 'I remember going down King's Parade when I was a young man and seeing Lytton Strachey walking towards me with Dadie Rorrylands on one arm and Rupert Brooke - the golden-voiced orator of King's College - on the other. And do you know, I didn't know where to put myself...' So did he

teach them anything? "What he really taught us was how things worked," Bird said. "That the things that work best are the best. And that even if your own standards aren't particularly high, or particularly clear, at least you believe in standards. That's an unfashionable belief when everything's supposed to be 'relative' and 'ironic' and 'post-modernist,' which means, in fact, that nobody gives a shit about anything."

After Cambridge, Bird plunged into serious dramaturgy: at 22, he was telling Lotte Lenya what to do at the Royal Court in a tribute evening to his beloved Brecht. And as for Fortune, "When I went to university, I'd always wanted to do something in adult education. In my last year, I went for an interview, and these people said, 'Well fine, if you want to teach miners to love DH Lawrence, we can get you a room in a mining town and pay you, ooh, eight quid a week.' And I thought, do I want to do that - or do I want to go and open a nightclub in Soho with Peter Cook?"

Incredibly, he chose the latter route. The club they founded in 1961 was called The Establishment, and served drinks, meals and twice-nightly cabaret, featuring the likes of the newly arrived Barry Humphries. Originally Bird and Fortune were to be co-direct performances with Cook. But after auditioning a succession of actors, they'd found hardly anyone who shared their sense of humour. "Peter said, 'Why don't you do it for three months, just until we find somebody.' And now, 36 years later..."

With the benefit of hindsight, one can only wonder what happened to Bird and Fortune. Two of the architects of the Sixties satire boom, which produced *Private Eye*, *That Was the Week That Was*, their careers seemed to run a parallel course to the comedy mainstream of the next 30 years. There was one moment on which cultural history now seems to have hinged. John Bird shared a flat with an ATF researcher called David Frost, who did occasional cabaret turns. One day, Bird was approached by Ned Sherrin and asked if he'd like to write for the pilot edition of *That Was the Week That Was* (TW3), which Sherrin was to produce. Bird agreed, "and Ned asked me if I'd front it. So I had to ask myself, 'Do I go and set up another Establishment Club in Chicago, as I'd more or less already agreed, or do I stay in London?' So I turned it down. Ned said, 'Do you have any suggestions for front men?' And I

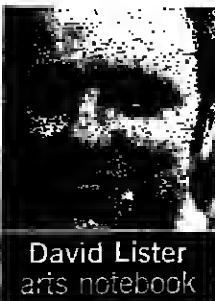
said, 'Well, David Frost, who shares my flat, does cabaret...'

You can almost hear the wings of fate beating o'erhead. Frost, of course, took over *Sixties* TV, TW3 began *The Frost Report*, which began *I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again*, which began *The Goodies* and *Monty Python*... By the time Bird and Fortune returned from their years in America, things had moved on. They won enthusiastic audiences for satirical excursions like *Not So Much a Programme, More a Way of Life*, but subsequent visits to the well, like *The Late Show* and *BBC3*, showed a dwindling interest. John and I did a couple of sitcoms for the BBC," said Bird, "but we were always pretty bad at getting scripts in on time. And by then I was very interested in Jean-Luc Godard, and I kept wanting to have background shots of posters with the word 'WAR' on them."

They are both a little vague about how life has treated them in the intervening years. Fortune has found himself living, at different times, in a Scottish castle, a Georgian mansion in Cork and a certain degree of marital disharmony; he now lives in Chiswick with a film producer called Emma. Bird lives in Reigate with a piano teacher called Libby. "We moved there in 1985," he says, "only about a mile from the previous house. I moved from George Gardiner's constituency to Kenneth Baker's constituency, two of the biggest Conservative majorities in the country..." Both former hard-line radicals would still, they say, vote Labour but wouldn't go so far as to call themselves Labour supporters. "I mean," Fortune said, "the idea of waking up on the Friday after the General Election and finding Major. Howard, Heseltine, Virginia, Portillo and Gummer still in power - and knowing they're going to be on the *Today* programme for another five years..."

Before we said goodbye, I suggested that the turning point was when Mike Yarwood's comely impression of Harold Wilson arrived to supplant Bird's far superior embodiment of the devious pipeman. "My Wilson was political; his wasn't," said Bird, shortly. But there had been a definite bifurcation of taste, and the world went with Yarwood. "That's the world for you. I've come to terms with all that." Could it be, I wondered, that you were too smart for your own good? Bird reflected grumpily. "Yeah, 'smart' is probably the word. Especially in that pejorative English sense - just too clever by half..."

The evergreen revue *Fascinating Aida* on Thursday caused on the oddities of language, describing the beverage Horlicks as "a racy name for a rather bland drink". Earlier in the day there were considerably greater liberties taken with the English language by the Arts Council, a bland name for an increasingly racy organisation. Lord Gowrie, its chairman, trying to point out his political neutrality described himself operationally as "quango castrata", an epithet which should accompany him throughout his tenure.



David Lister
arts notebook

But the more remarkable linguistic games were played at the Council's launch of its lottery "stabilisation" fund which, among other things, will help pay the debts of companies in trouble. Gowrie pretty much gave the

game away when, to glares from his colleagues, he confided that he had lost the battle over this fund's nomenclature. He had wanted to call it the "Phoenix Fund". To admit that lottery ticket buyers were helping ailing companies rise from the dead rather than stabilising creative successes undergoing temporary blips might have been political suicide.

But this was not the end of the linguistic puzzles. The English National Opera and other stabilised companies could have their money only on the condition that Arts Council and other experts

were brought in to advise them on their future financial plans. That this supposedly radical departure was meant to be the role of the Council already in its regular appraisals and contact with its clients seemed to have been forgotten. But if it takes forgetfulness and language changes and a measure of stealth to use lottery money for revenue funding of the arts rather than just spending the money on new buildings, then I for one won't argue with it.

And what of the word "commercial"? The Donmar Warehouse, a commercial

theatre in central London, was given £150,000 of public money on Thursday. That should be applauded. The work of director Sam Mendes there is exciting and must be sustained, even if the Arts Council moves away from its traditional remit to do so. My only quibble with this is that Sam Mendes is a member of the Council's own drama panel. There is no impropriety here. He leaves the room when his theatre is discussed. But the perception of a very large and unusual grant going to one of the Council's own is not a healthy one. And perceptions are important,

another word the Council would do well to mull over.

The WH Smith Literary Award announced its shortlist this week. It includes the usual suspects, Margaret Atwood, Seamus Deane, Graham Swift etc. But the prize marks a break with precedent. A guest judge, Nick Hornby, will join the other judges, John Carey, Lucy Hughes-Hallett and Hilary Mantel, for the final judging session. While the last three will have laboured over more than 100 books, the author of *Verity Pitch* and *High Fidelity* will have to read only six between Arsenal

fixtures and will be present for the controversy of the final session and the slap-up meal and ceremony to follow. This, I suspect, is likely to catch on rapidly. Watch as the plethora of book prizes move to having industry figures reading books over the year and big-name guest judges being wooed for the publicity of the final session, and barely a week's reading to detain them.

A brochure from the Palace Theatre, Southend-on-Sea, advertises a new musical *Dancing in the Street*, an evening of nostalgia set on the night of 30 July 1966

when England won the World Cup. It features such pop classics as "Jumping Jack Flash", "Hi-Ho Silver Lining" and "I'm a Believer". This play presumably recounts the adventures of a group of football supporting clairvoyants, as none of the aforementioned songs had been released when England won the World Cup. I looked up what was top of the charts just before the World Cup started. It was Frank Sinatra's "Strangers in the Night". On second thoughts, let's allow the Palace Theatre its dramatic licence.

arts & books

Doing that fish thing she does

Last week Vanessa-Mae – she of the electric white violin and even more electrifying wet-look T-shirt – was left high and dry just before embarking upon her latest national concert tour when her Slovak pick-up band were refused UK work permits. **Ian Pillow** was there when the emergency call went out to a fellow member of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

There was a message waiting for Spencer Brown, our principal viola, the Thursday before last. Would he like to play with Vanessa-Mae on Friday and Saturday nights? With an offer like that, how could he refuse? Except that, sadly, as it happened, the Friday night gig was to be in Plymouth and, though we were due to play there on the Thursday, by the following night we'd have moved on to Portsmouth. The Saturday was OK, though – the orchestra's one free day in a fortnight. Spencer rushed to the phone to get the details: Schubert's *Trout Quintet* at the Bournemouth International Centre – rehearsal at 4pm.

It seemed to be rather an esoteric choice for the wet-look fiddle-chick, but she was on a nationwide tour promoting both her latest CD, and herself "as a serious classical artist".

Now I'm all in favour of glamming up the classical image, especially if it brings in converts to the cause and puts bums on seats. I make one proviso, though. The artist concerned must be good. I'd rather have the world humming along and tapping its feet to the Three Tenors than to a group of over-hyped tone-deaf mediocrities pounding out electric guitars.

Opinions about Vanessa-Mae's musical talents seemed to vary considerably amongst the band. Our leader for the week called her "a terrible violinist", whereas our coach-driver thought she was rather good. He was winding Spencer up something rotten on the journey back from Plymouth, talking about glasses steaming up, not being able to get the bow on the string, and making sure that the up-bow steered well clear of her back-side, which apparently plays a lively part in the proceedings. The "serious artist" bit has yet to permeate his psyche.

There was one way of finding out the truth. I decided to tag along with Spencer to the rehearsal. Watching the way she approached a masterpiece of Viennese chamber music at close quarters in rehearsal, away from all the razzmatazz, would be a true test of her musicianship.

Nobody was around when we reached the BIC at four o'clock on the Saturday afternoon. Spencer and I looked in vain for anyone carrying a cello or a double-bass (the other two string instruments which, together with Vanessa-Mae's violin and a piano, would make up the numbers for Schubert's quintet). Some time later two girls wandered into the hall. Were they the cello and bass? "No. We're the backing group. We were told to be here at four." Now, it's a long while since I've played the *Trout Quintet*, but I don't remember any backing group. Perhaps the Schubert scholars have unearthed a new urtext.

We went backstage to see if there was anybody else around and eventually discovered the tour manager, tucked away in a little office.

"Vanessa is getting here at five," "Can my friend sit in on the rehearsal?" asks Spencer. "Vanessa doesn't usually like people drifting in." "He's my caddy," insists Spencer. "I think you should take a No 5 bow for the fourth variation." I imagine myself advising, "there's a nasty bunker in the 11th bar".

"Oh, all right then."

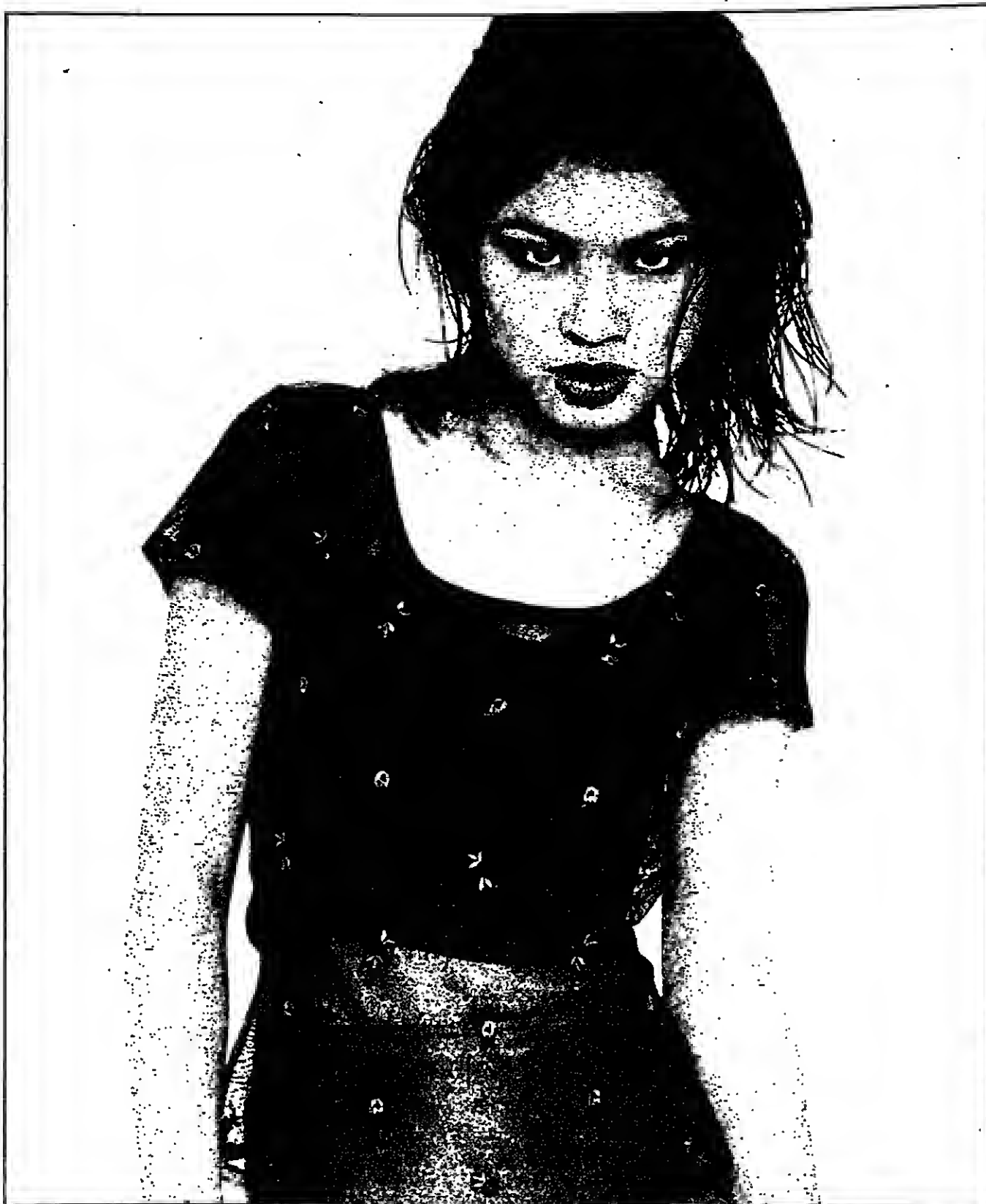
"Did you get a viola player for Plymouth by the way?" Spencer enquires.

"No, we didn't."

"How did you manage in *The Trout*, then?"

"We had to ditch the fish thing."

What a shame. Going all out for the culture image and she has to ditch the "fish thing".



Wet-look fiddle-chick Vanessa-Mae substitutes a white gown for her cool gear when playing alongside her mum in concert

We'd just sat down for a cup of tea when we heard a red-hot rock version of Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue* pounding out from the hall, electric fiddle sawing away demoniacally. The rehearsal had started. We rushed in. Sure enough, there was the group – a couple of electric guitars, a keyboard and several percussion players – all jiggling about to the racket, totally possessed. But no Vanessa-Mae. So the whole show was going to be mimed, was it? Spencer looked worried. He had trained as a musician, not as an actor.

The row soon stopped and all was quiet again. By 5 o'clock there was still no sign of any Troutites. At 5.11 there was a sudden burst of activity: four men came in to lay a carpet on the stage. At 5.17 another carpet was laid on top of the first one. At 5.23 both carpets were taken up again, rolled up and carried away.

At 5.31 Vanessa-Mae herself bounced in, wearing a bright orange jacket and a pair of jeans. She started discussing with an older, oriental-looking woman where she should stand. But there was still no sign of a cellist or double-bass player, let alone a pianist. Eventually Spencer went up to the older woman, who seemed to be in charge of everything (and turned out later to be not only Vanessa's mum but also the missing piano-player), introduced himself, and asked where the cello and bass were.

"They're at Covent Garden playing *Swan Lake*."

"When's the rehearsal, then?"

"There isn't one."

Spencer thought he'd better introduce himself to the star. She gave him a perfunctory handshake, and skipped off.

"Vanessa-Mae," I quipped wittily, "but, judging by that handshake, I don't think she will."

We repaired to the pub, Spencer's one free afternoon, the first time in a fortnight when he could have been out on the golf course, had been spent watching four men lay carpets.

So, what was Vanessa-Mae like at the concert?

I actually sided with the coach-driver rather than with the leader. It was difficult to tell in that dreadful place, with its dreadful acoustic, but I'd say she played accurately, cleanly, and with a pure tone – what I could hear of her.

Even before she made her first appearance on stage, her voice had boomed spookily out of speakers in a darkened hall, as she gave a yukky description of her opening number – Bruch's *Scottish Fantasy*. "Black Scottish mists," said the voice, "the sun suddenly piercing the gloom onto the shining mountains, the drone of the bagpipes, and a rumbustious [sic] Scottish dance."

As if to dispel her *Penthouse* image, she then appeared in a dazzling virgin-white evening gown.

After the first section the man next to me was impressed. "She plays without music," he gasped in wonderment to his wife. Before the last section Vanessa re-tuned her violin. "Those are the bagpipes, I suppose," he mused.

Spencer enjoyed his evening. He did not have to mine, although he might just as well have done. The venue's acoustics were about as helpful to string players as chloroform, and anyway Vanessa's mum at the piano was doing her level best to imitate an entire symphony orchestra and drowning out everyone else (Vanessa included) in the process. As Spencer poetically put it, when I told him I hadn't heard a note he'd played all evening. "Funny that. I was knocking shit out of it." But he had won Vanessa-Mae's gratitude, earned himself a few bob, and learnt how to lay carpets.

Some names have been changed to protect the innocent Vanessa-Mae and friends play the *Barbican*, Silk St, London EC2, 7.30pm Monday. Booking: 0171-638 8891

The show must go on (radio)

Old television sitcoms don't die, they just go into radio retirement, where laughter lines replace the wrinkles. By Jasper Rees

Radio has come to be seen as the nursery of television, where talent is suckled and encouraged to emit its first coherent gurgle. Though it bristles at the idea that the medium offering words and pictures is inherently superior, there is little radio can do to halt the one-way traffic that has given a face, sometimes a new name, but above all a much bigger audience to one-time wireless entertainments like *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, *The News Quiz*, *They Think It's All Over, Room 101* and *On the Hour*.

Now, though, it seems, radio has begun refurbishing itself as a retirement home for senior television shows. *To the Manor Born*, nominated as one of the BBC's best television comedies at its recent 40th anniversary awards, has been granted a new lease of life by Radio 2. No matter that the vehicle for Penelope Keith made its last appearance on television 16 years ago. *Rumpole of the Bailey*, equally long in the tooth, also returns this week in the form of a radio reading by – who else? – TV's long-running *Rumpole*, Leo McKern. Programmes don't have to be pushing up the roots of the daisies to catch radio's eye; also coming up is the audio version of *As Time Goes By*, another sitcom about middle-aged sexual tension starring Judi Dench and Geoffrey Palmer. Even as 13 old editions are being recycled for radio, the sixth series is currently being made for television. Nor do they have to be the BBC's baby: *Shelley*, one of the few fondly remembered sitcoms from ITV, is also on Radio 2's shopping list.

If you've been looking for an example of bi-mediality that doesn't involve Brian Hanrahan cropping up on PM, you can call off the search. As well as developing its own playhouse comedies, some of which may one day transfer to the small screen, Radio 2 is actively trawling the television archives for cheap, pre-fabricated ideas. Bi-mediality is just Birtspeak for licensed poaching. These old television shows may have been crowded out of an overheated marketplace, but radio is more than willing to take them in.

There are two separate broadcasting trends that overlap here, neither of them especially welcome. The first involves the blurring of the distinction between radio and television (a basic principal behind Birt's restructuring of the BBC): the free

trade in ideas can only erode the differences between them, to the inevitable detriment of radio's individual voice. The second involves the tentacular reach of the nostalgia industry. The growth market in archive entertainments, which brought you the radio stations Capital Gold and Virgin 1215 and the satellite channel UK Gold, is now creating a kind of Radio 2 Gold.

Rather than conceiving programmes for which listeners will one day grow nostalgic, Radio 2 is simply adopting TV nostalgia readymade.

It would be misleading to claim that the path from television to radio has never been trodden by comedy or drama. In the 1970s, *Dad's Army* led a double life on BBC1 and Radio 2. More recently, Radio 4 cunningly disguised *Victoria Wood: As Seen on TV* as *As Heard on Radio*. And last year, *The Darling Buds of May* made a valedictory appearance on Radio 4 in an adaptation of the last of HE Bates's Larkin stories (which television – ever radio's more squeamish younger sibling – had rejected because it ends with Pop Larkin's death).

But whereas it once looked like a coincidence, now the radiophonic resuscitation of moribund TV shows has become policy. "We know that television repeats programmes," says Jim Moir, the controller of Radio 2 and the former head of light entertainment at BBC TV, who is directing the traffic of comedy back towards the wireless. "and often getting bigger audiences than the first transmission. They clearly have an afterlife. It's foolish to think that because they have been on television everybody has seen or heard of them." The parallel lives of *As Time*

Goes By would suggest that listeners and viewers are two entirely separate species, but *To the Manor Born* can only be relocating to radio precisely because people have already seen it. As the bizarrely lucrative market in audio cassette versions of highly visual TV shows like *Blackadder* and *Not the Nine O'Clock News* surely proves, audiences accept sound-only mementoes precisely because they already carry the images in their heads.

"This sounds rather pompous," says Penelope Keith, "but so many saw the show, I should think a high percentage of people listening in will have seen it. And a great help to us as performers is the fact that they know the characters. It's a sort of déjà vu thing."

The first rule of nostalgia being that the fondly recalled always remain just the way you remember them, radio actually offers some in-built advantages for any sitcom that has reached the menopause. The recent TV revival of *The Liver Birds* signally failed to clear the awkward hurdle that its chief characters had aged with the actors who played them. On radio, though, wrinkles are not an issue. Penelope Keith, who, on screen, is nowadays reduced to playing a grandmother in *Nes of Kin*, can top off 20 years on the wireless, while major cast changes, such as that by which Keith Barron has transplanted Peter Bowles as the arriviste tycoon in *To the Manor Born*, can be discreetly accommodated. Really ghastly TV shows can even be given a complete facelift, as with *Shelley*, which will be entirely recast for radio. There is, however, one effect of ageing that even radio's reconstructive surgery cannot remedy: Reggie Perrin may have feigned death, but Leonard Rossiter

sadly wasn't faking, and TV's recent sequel, *The Legacy of Reginald Perrin*, had to stumble on without its star. (It was because of Paul Eddington's death that Penelope Keith flatly vetoed Jim Moir's proposal to revisit *The Good Life*.)

"It was so associated with the four of us, and one couldn't ever think of doing it with anybody else."

Though few of these shows ever receive their kiss of life from radio without first having been pronounced dead by television, there can be advantages in seeking a second opinion. Probably the most seamless transfer from television to radio was achieved by *Resnick*, the sequence of Nottingham-based crime novels written by John Harvey, who has also written profusely for both broadcast media. Two *Resnick* stories were filmed for BBC1; then, when it became obvious that television would not commission any more, two further adaptations were recorded for Radio 4. Tom Wilkinson played the lugubrious jazz-buff detective for all of the first three, while Tom Georgeson took over for No 4 (which he could hardly have done on television, having already played a burglar busted by Wilkinson's *Resnick* in an earlier episode).

"We were trying to find a way to do the pro-

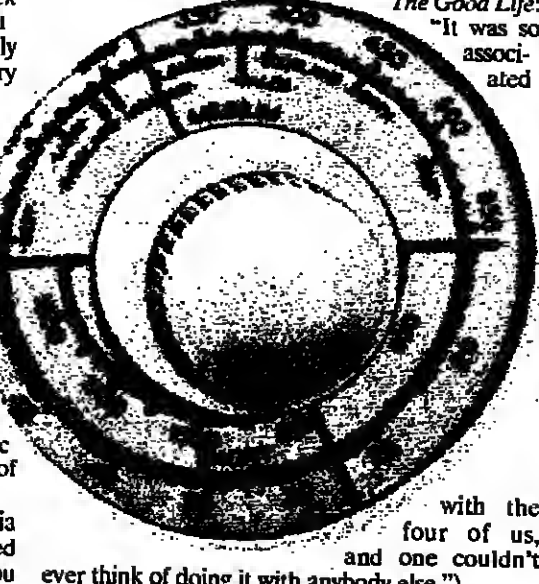
grammes on radio in a way that was special to radio," says Harvey. From the novel sequence he chose to adapt *No 5, Wasted Years*, "partly because it would have been the most difficult anyway to have done on television. It takes place over three different eras in Resnick's life, and radio gives you a tremendous amount of scope to do that."

But also, of all the *Resnick* novels, *Wasted Years* has the most intrusive jazz soundtrack, "which is much easier to weld in and out of the narrative on radio, to some degree because it's much cheaper to get permission to use music on radio."

To the Manor Born has a head start over other sitcoms awaiting transmigration, since Peter Spence actually wrote it for radio before Penelope Keith asked if she could offer it to television. The new radio series is a rare hybrid form of six "classic" (ie second-hand) scripts adapted from the television series bolted on to four original ones commissioned especially for radio. And although the ancestral pile which the widowed Audrey Forbes-Hamilton has been forced to sell gave the television version a distinct pictorial flavour, the show was always more of a comedy of manners than a comedy of manors. In other words, it's a perfect fit for radio. The only question now is whether the dilemma that eventually killed the original show after 21 episodes will recur. "It was very much, 'will they, won't they get together?'" Keith recalls, "and I felt we couldn't go on teasing the audience for that much longer."

For the moment, the only shows Radio 2 is reviving seem to be the ones at middle-aged audiences of conservative tastes. But we can hazard a prediction based on the station's current policy of hiring once-trendy disc jockeys cast off by Radio 1. Like Steve Wright and Ed Stewart, *Father Ted* and *Men Behaving Badly* will not always be at the cutting edge. When the time comes, they can always be put out to grass in the comfortable pastures of 88-90.2 FM, where their currently youthful audience will one day be happy to join them in the sure and certain knowledge that the pictures are, as they always say, better on radio.

The new series of *To the Manor Born* begins 1.30pm today on Radio 2. The new series of *Rumpole of the Bailey* begins 8.45pm Friday, also on R2. Jasper Rees reviews the week's TV on page 31



صحنه من الدراما

Make-believe with malice

In Roger Michell's revival of Harold Pinter's 'The Homecoming', the audience sees through the play as well as the set. By Paul Taylor



Provocative enigma: Lindsay Duncan as Ruth with Keith Allen as her husband Teddy, and Michael Sheen as Lenny

Photo: Geraint Lewis

In his recently published critical biography of Harold Pinter, Michael Billington proclaims that *The Homecoming* is the dramatist's "masterpiece". Faced with Roger Michell's revival of the play at the Lyttelton, any newcomer to Pinter could be forgiven for thinking that, if the pre-eminence is indeed the case, there's every reason for giving the rest of his oeuvre a wide berth. In a badly misguided touch, the walls are translucent on the set of the East End home where the play's all male family – raucous with rancour and testosterone – are incited to fresh spasms of territorial and sexual competitiveness when the eldest son, now a US-based academic, returns for a surprise visit with his English wife. But this production makes you see through the play as well as through the walls. Usually, one reacts to this piece in a state of appalled, prurient fascination as the wife, Ruth, extricates herself from an evidently imperfect marriage by the novel expedient of consenting to remain with her in-laws in the double role of money-spinning prostitute and mother substitute. Just how much the play's creepy spell depends on the tautness of the direction is made cruelly clear by this sagging production. Under no danger of hypnosis here, your mind is left free to brood on the gaping artificialities in the drama.

Roger Michell is certainly a director to be

reckoned with. His film of *Persuasion* has claims to be regarded as the best ever TV adaptation of a classic novel. His production of *My Night with Reg* offered, during its run, the finest example of ensemble acting in London. But the National Theatre has yet to see him on top form. His Olivier staging of *Under Milk Wood* piled on the visual imagery in a redundant effort to present to the eye what Dylan Thomas's radio play presents all too visibly to the mind's eye. Now the largeness of the Lyttelton has encouraged Michell to go in for translucent walls so as to bring on stage what is more potent when left off it. Among Pinter's many undoubted gifts as a dramatist is hard clarity of focus. Here, the fact that we can see – or rather, dimly discern – people retreating into their bedrooms or scrapping dishes in the kitchen has the effect of distracting attention from the studiously mannered minutiae of what is going on in the sitting-room where the play is set. Only on one occasion does this expansion of visible territory genuinely heighten your sense of the obsessive territoriality of the characters. This comes when, roused from sleep and rightly suspicious that his pimp son Lenny is hiding something from him, David Bradley's decrepit, gravel-voiced loud of a patriarch, Max, advances into this youth's bedroom. We see Lenny nervously run on ahead and sweep some-

thing (pornography?) under his bed. That's not all Lenny is concealing, of course, but this paternal invasion gives added motivation here to the son's repulsive retaliatory speech of undermining inquisitiveness about the night he was conceived. At other points, the set is a liability. It's almost comic, for example, that the off-stage event one has most need of help picturing – Ruth's two hours of pointedly anticlimactic love-making with her slow-witted brother-in-law Joey (played here as an unappetising runt whose boxing ambitions look comprehensively doomed) – is just the one that the geography of the set leaves to your already sorely tried imagination. There was a time when Ruth's decision to stay – a move that involves abandoning her children – was viewed as a male fantasy projection. Pinter admirers are no longer content with that defence. Anxious to see the play as an almost feminist fable of female "empowerment", they stress the sterility of her marriage, the culpable detachment of her husband, and the way she negotiates better terms for herself (she's going to be a very high-class tart). But when the rules have been invented by sickeningly odious men, where's the triumph in winning the game? To read some Pinter critics, you'd think that Ruth was an evolutionary step in the direction of Madonna – Madonna as eulogised by Camille Paglia for her "full, florid expres-

sion of the whore's rule over meo". What Ruth actually represents is a regression from the Nora of Ibsen's *Doll's House* who had the guts to get out of a bad marriage by going it alone. Portraying Ruth, Lindsay Duncan is a listless, provocative enigma in nylon stockings. There's nothing much else she can be here except a sphinx without a riddle. It doesn't help that Michael Sheen, playing Lenny, the pimp brother-in-law whose brutal cockiness she elegantly deflates, has been directed to emphasise the underlying uncertainty at the expense of the surface menace. A wimp in wolf's clothing, this Lenny is too much the little boy pretending to be a man. When crossed, he petulantly blows smoke into people's faces or shows off the phallically long flame from his cigarette lighter. Why would she get a kick out of cutting this nerd down to size? But then Ruth and husband Teddy (a mis-cast Keith Allen) are just about the least plausible academic couple in world drama. There's a play by Pinter called *The Lover* in which it turns out that the eponymous adulterer who calls each day is, in fact, the woman's husband. The most rational explanation for Ruth and Teddy is that they live down the road and pop in regularly for a spot of the same kind of ritualised make-believe. In repertoire at the RNT (Lyttelton Theatre), London SE1. Booking: 0171-928 2252

The Bell of the hall

Joshua Bell assembled stars of chamber music for a magnificent evening. By Anthony Payne

Assembling an outstanding group of chamber musical names for his short Mozart / Tchaikovsky Festival at the Wigmore Hall this week, violinist Joshua Bell has managed to sell out all four recitals in the series and, to judge by the splendid second and third programmes, no ticket holders will have been disappointed. There was hardly a blemish in either concert, whether in the playing of the Orion Quartet, currently holding a residency at New York's Lincoln Center, or in the duos and trios that completed the programmes. Chief protagonists were Bell himself and cellist Steven Isserlis, renowned concerto soloists both, but also supreme chamber players, and hence able to take off with an individualistic and creative turn of phrase while remaining fully responsive to their colleagues' interpretative initiatives. Teaming up with pianist Yefim Bronfman, a boldly colourful instrumentalist with a sense of the daring and the dramatic, they brought the second concert to a magnificent climax with Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio. Not one of the master's greatest works, perhaps, but when performed as masterfully and passionately as it was here, a deeply touching document in spite of its weakness for regular two- and four-bar phrases. The vast set of variations that closes the piece was superbly characterised, creating a unity out of Tchaikovsky's discursive invention, and when the final triumph to which this tribute to the death of Nikolai Rubinstein seems to be leading dissolves into

a brief funeral march, the heart was chilled. Earlier they had given a rare performance of Rachmaninov's *Trio Elegiac*, responding with no less commitment to the melancholic charm and passionate sincerity of this young man's music. The Orion Quartet's contribution to the programme was a fine reading of Mozart's E Flat K 428, and in the later concert they brought an engaging freshness to Tchaikovsky's first essay in the genre, discovering the famous "Andante Cantabile" for us as if it had been composed only yesterday, and generating a springing rhythmic impetus throughout the rest of this disarming and elegantly textured work. The highlight of the evening, nevertheless, was a terrific performance of Mozart's Divertimento K 563 for string trio, in which Messrs Bell and Isserlis were joined by the viola player Paul Neubauer. It is a matter of deep regret that the logistics of chamber music playing prevent us from hearing this great work more often than we do. Establishing a genre, pointing the way to the late Beethoven quartets, it is a chamber music milestone, and on this occasion its contrapuntal ingenuities, breadth of emotion, now shadowed, now early in its humour, were superbly ecompassed. The astonishing invention of the final Rondo, where an insouciant repetitiveness is outrageously destabilised by contrapuntal science and disruptive strumming, crowned an outstanding evening's music making. Final concert: 7.30 tonight, Wigmore Hall, London W1 (0171-935 2141)

On manuscripts and book stores

Michael Glover grabs a front-row seat for a Susan Sontag soirée

Simon Roberts, convenor of literary soirées at Waterstones, Islington Green, had a high sheen of sweat on his brow. Things were not going too well. First of all, there'd been the argument on the stairs. "We didn't know you had to book," said one young man. "It was that kind of a night. 'We wouldn't have wasted our time coming all this way to see Susan Sontag if we'd known that.' He turned, and started stomping back down the stairs. Luckily, Simon had a trick up his sleeve. Perhaps it was an old one. You never can tell just how cunning people are. "You can have this one free," he said, handing over the piece of paper that he'd just produced from somewhere – or nowhere. "It's been paid for. Someone just rang to cancel..." Meanwhile, I moved upstairs into the audience, some of whom were falling over chairs. Susan Sontag's publicist was smiling dreamily through a glass or two of wine, having already succeeded in dulling the anxieties ahead: that dinner with Susan in the restaurant later, which would require intelligent responses to quick-fire New York humour stuffed full of a bewildering range of literary and cultural cross-references. It wasn't until I'd found my seat on the front row, squeezed in next to a director of the Brighton Literary Festival on the scout, that I noticed the woman standing in the corner with her back to us, just to the right of the microphone and that intimidating dumptin of Susan Sontag titles in

paperback. I counted 10, ranging from *A Susan Sontag Reader* to *Aids and its Metaphors*. I saw her whip the blue velvet hairband off her hair, and give it one last quick drag-through with the comb before she turned to face the audience. We were all so shocked by her hair – entirely black apart from that strangely endearing lick of grey at the front edging off to white. I thought of Robert Lowell's poem "Skunk Hour" – but Sontag is not, of course, a poet. She seemed very relaxed tonight. "I just love these independent book stores," she said. Thankfully, no one interpreted that WH Smith were in charge these days. She leans her elbow against that bookcase with all her books in it. How reassuring – or threatening – it must have felt. I'd just counted 16 copies of *The Volcano Lover, a Romance*. "You know, the great city that I come from, New York City, so famous for its energies," she went on fairly languidly, "is the poorest capital that I know for book stores." Then she sighed a small sigh. "And I really love talking to small audiences too..." She gave us one of her lovely, complicated smiles. She picked up a copy of *The Volcano Lover* and read a slab of it. Then she picked up the manuscript of her new, unfinished novel and read a slab of that. Total reading time: one hour and a bit. A little later, during question time, she told us that she often writes 30 or 40 versions of a single page of a manuscript. She's that scrupulous. She keeps them all, too. No one thought to ask her how many times the ceiling had fallen in back home.

| THE WEEK IN REVIEW | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|
| David Benedict | | | |
| | THE FILM | THE OPERA | THE CONCERT |
| | The Frighteners | The Italian Girl in Algiers | Lutoslawski |
| overview | The Michael J Fox revival continues with Peter Heavenly Creatures Jackson's New Zealand film about a fake psychic confronted by the real thing. Produced by Robert Back to the Future Zemeckis. | A new production of Rossini's comic opera directed by Howard Davies and designed by Tim Hatley, with Della Jones, Charles Workman and Alan Opie. Conducted by Valentin Raymond. | The BBC's annual composer weekend was devoted to Poland's Witold Lutoslawski (1913-1994) with Andrew Davies, Oliver Knussen and others conducting a range of his orchestral, chamber and choral works. |
| critical view | Adam Mars-Jones welcomed "a highly successful hybrid of a supernatural thriller and black comedy". "Dark, disturbing and, yes, frightening," warned the FT. "Shocking and effective," praised Time Out. "The Hollywood budget does nothing to stop the script blundering between moods," grumbled The Times. "For total insanity, by this," scoffed the Standard. | Edward Seckerson shuddered at "a desperate cast in a desperate production desperately trying to please". "Some musical pleasure... even second-rate Rossini deserves better," admonished The Times. "I didn't so much as smile once," yawned the Telegraph. "Wretched theatricality... stylish singing from Charles Workman," noted The Guardian. | Despite caveats, Keith Potter praised work up to the final symphony, "magical, blazing and deeply moving". "Renewed admiration for the composer but did not make him any easier to sum up... an elegant, expressive voice that always renewed itself," saluted The Times. "Exhilarating... the BBC and the Barbican gave us a feast to remember," gloried the FT. |
| on view | Cert 15, Empire Leicester Square, London WC2 and on general release. | Tonight at 7.30 and in rep at ENO, The Coliseum, London WC2 until 26 Feb. | Been and gone. Novices should try the Cello Concerto and Symphonies 3 & 4. |
| our view | Laughter turns to terror. Ghostbusters it ain't. | Even the excellent Opie cannot save this drab, under-directed, unfunny show. | The kind of exciting programming that gives subsidy a good name. |

KEY

EXCELLENT

GOOD

OK

POOR

DEADLY

Signs on the road to Utopia

Colin MacCabe challenges a new Rousseau

Before Writing: rethinking the paths to literacy by Gunther Kress, Routledge, £12.99

As education moves up the political agenda, the topic of literacy looks set fair to become the site of ever more ignorant and ill-tempered debates. On the one side are the traditionalists with their emphasis on phonics and standards, on the other the progressives who stress creativity and change. Gunther Kress's book is an epitome of the virtues and vices of the progressive side of the argument. The virtues are an extraordinary attention to and concern with the world of the child. The vices are its Utopian view of both language and education.

The body of Kress's work is a close and detailed examination of his own children's play and, in particular, their drawing and writing between the ages of three and seven. The book is fascinating as the record of an attentive and intelligent observer's attempt to understand the kinds of logic that animate the way in which pre-literate children draw and write.

Kress would probably object to the phrase "pre-literate", as this work is largely an argument to show that children at a very early age have assumptions and theories of meaning and representation which should be built on as they learn to read and write, rather than discarded. Further, Kress argues that these sophisticated theories and practices are much more in tune with the information society we are becoming than with the Gutenberg era of print, which is now drawing to a close. As we enter a multi-media world where image and sound are combined, we should make sure that we educate our children in ways that develop their abilities rather

than hampering them with outdated notions of the primacy of the printed word.

Much of Kress's local interpretation is brilliant – but the general thesis is sustained by an explicit theory of language which is wrong, and an implicit theory of education which ignores all questions of resources. Kress is violently opposed to any theory of language that stresses its arbitrary nature. For the small child – and this is the brilliance of his interpretations – all representations are motivated. In other words, you can understand that the squiggles on the page are a cat when you realise that the squiggles are in fact approximations at circles, and that the circles represent the wheels which are, for the child, the most significant part of the car.

The problem of moving from this material to language is that language is, with very few exceptions, made up of unmotivated signs. While a picture of a cat has to look like a cat, the word bears no such relationship to the animal named. Language therefore poses an enormous problem for anyone who wishes to locate meaning in individual subjectivity. In order to express our personal views and emotions we have to use a medium which is social and arbitrary.

Kress's arguments to get round this obstacle verge on the bizarre. Talking about the German word for tree (*Baum*), he speculates on its etymological root in the verb "to bend" and suggests that in the Southern steppes of Russia some 4,000 years ago the most striking fact about a tree was that it bent in the wind. But even if we were to accept that etymological origins were

motivated, this does not allow us to escape the arbitrary nature of contemporary language.

The only way to make sense of Kress's argument is to view the current state of language as a form of alienation that in some other society might be overcome. There are hints that this is exactly what Kress does believe, and that what he sees promised by the multimedia future is a world freed both from the arbitrary sign and the alphabet, in which pure subjectivities would exchange their emotions in motivated images. Such a Romantic vision would have been all too happily recognised by that doyen of educational progressives, Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Independently of the question of whether this view is sense or nonsense (and both Freud and Wittgenstein would suggest nonsense), it is profoundly dangerous. Access to the multimedia world of the future is controlled in the present by those who have mastered the written language. Kress writes eloquently about the bleakness of the increasingly divided society that we are becoming. An education system that does not place traditional literacy at the centre of its concerns will accentuate these divisions, as the world will divide into those who can actively use the new communications technology and those who will merely consume it.

It is true that the schools must engage much more actively with the new technological forms and media. But that engagement must include an emphasis on traditional literacy, which remains ever more central to power and authority as it becomes less central to entertainment and leisure.



The witch guide to early learning: an eight-year-old's view of Halloween

Obscure objects of desire

Carole Angier cracks a code and finds a cipher

The Last Thing He Wanted by Joan Didion, Flamingo, £15.99

Know what this book is like?

It's like this.

Repeated over and over.

If you put them together they make short paragraphs. Not bad paragraphs – but not breath-taking ones either. The trick doesn't work. Look! It says. So what do you see? That there's less to this book than meets the eye.

This is a shame, because Joan Didion was a great reporter of the US scene. Which she still is: *The Last Thing He Wanted* is about a CIA gun-running scam, told by a Washington reporter. So there's good CIA talk, like *Ap Tech* (Appropriate Technologies) for LDCs (Lesser Developed Countries); and good Washington talk, like young senators being "lean mean and good to go". There's also a rather interesting heroine: a middle-aged, ex-society hostess, to whom there's more than meets the eye. And there's an interesting relationship between her and her father, a mean old villain whom we'd love to hate but can't, because Didion makes him so real, with his fading memory and his pathetic, wicked hopes for a last big deal.

These are the good things; but they're not enough. Elena McMahon's relationship with her father is minor. More important is the romantic one with Treat Morrison, troubleshooter. Didion tells us so ("they knew each other, understood each other, recognised each other" etc).

But here there's not just less than meets the eye, there's nothing. Treat is a cipher: he and Elena only talk twice, and only meet halfway through. When the narrator says at the end "I want these two to have been together all their lives," the gap between the response expected and the response earned is so wide that the whole novel falls into it.

But it had lost me long before. I get the intention ("I wanted the connections to materialise for you as they eventually did for me"), and I know how hard that is to do. *The Last Thing He Wanted* doesn't do it. I hadn't a clue what was going on until nearly the end. And I don't buy the narrator's pretentious excuses, either – that "traditional dramatic line" is "a trying conceit", that she's "lost patience" with "the conventions of the craft". Lose patience with the craft, baby, and you lose readers.

A bit of a do in North-eastenders

Rape, frostbite and a lesbian granny – the soap opera of family life is a rich source of comic inspiration for writers. Michael Arditti, Carole Morin and Carol Birch investigate three great British home stories.

Tyneside has undergone a massive reconstruction in recent years, but it is nothing compared to its literary reinvention at the hands of Paul Mags. The landscape remains bleak (rubbish-strewn streets and acid-smelling civic centres) and the climate of casual violence bleaker still (arson attacks on schools and children dancing round dead dogs), but Mags bathes it in a festive glow – as though the street lamps have been replaced by fairy lights.

He sets *Does It Show?* (Chatto, £9.99), his second novel, on a rundown council estate in his own hometown of Newton Aycliffe. It is an area so deprived that even the teachers come from one-parent families, but Mags endows his characters with a resilience and a determination to transcend their circumstances which is most manifest in the vitality of their language. By the time that a police inspector asks if a family is "a problem family", the reader knows that the question is meaningless. So-called problem families have as complex and comical lives as everyone else.

Mags's first novel, *Marked for Life* – with its bisexual father and lesbian grandmother – saw the dysfunctional family come of age. His second also invokes respect for a group of people who would make every one of Anne Atkins' immaculate hairs curl: a gay teacher; a transvestite father who passes as a mother; a grandmother who prefers to have sex with disabled men and is looking for an amenable dwarf. And yet, although the new novel's canvas is broader, its focus is less sharp. The gay lovers are less well integrated into the book's scheme.

Mags – whose writing is reminiscent of Patrick Gale, Angela Carter and, in particular, the Frank Clarke of *Letter to Brezhnev* – is developing a style that might best be described as magic soap opera. In *Does It Show?*, the magical elements, which centre on the visionary schoolgirl Penny, are less pronounced than in *Marked for Life*, but the soap-operatic ones more so. This is due to its council-estate setting and episodic structure (the book might well be subtitled *North-Eastenders*) but, above all, to its concern with the everyday problems of women.

In *Playing Out*, his newly published collection of short stories (Vintage, £5.99), Mags writes of one of his characters that "He knew the kind of things women said together, he could imagine those. Men frightened him because his imagination ground to a halt with them." It is tempting to apply the remark to the author. The gay lovers excepted, men are either inadequate – hulkies, drunkards, absentees, amputees – or else fantasy figures, such as Cliff, the hunky bus driver (more Heath than Richard), while the women are, in every sense, powerful presences.



Having fun with the dysfunctional family: Livi Michael (left), Paul Mags (top right) and Stephen Blanchard (bottom right)

Mags is clearly so confident of his fictional territory, with its mildly subversive but reassuring customs, that he is already becoming self-referential. Mark Kelly makes a brief reappearance from the first novel, "his tattoos sinister in the gloom", while several of the new novel's female characters reunite in "Judith's Do Round Hers". One of the funniest short stories, "The stories are somewhat uneven and samey (all the non-working class characters are either writers or academics), but the finest ("Ancomones", "My Labrador, his puppy", and "Bargains for Charlotte") show Mags' talent at his best, their vivid dialogue, wonderfully weird characterisation and moments of transcendence making up for the lack of any larger statement. All Mags now needs is a subject to match his style and setting, for his immense promise to be fulfilled. MA

The worthy reviews quoted on the cover make Livi Michael's books sound plain as a puddle and half as interesting. She writes about working-class women trapped on northern council estates, teenage mums so poor they can't afford even the pram in the hallway. Occasionally, a middle-class mother makes an appearance and – guess what – these mums are just as miserable.

Her fiction doesn't sound like a bundle of laughs, but in fact it is often hysterically funny. At the beginning of her career, Michael – although from Manchester – was grouped with the dour Kel-

man clones who dominated Scottish fiction before Irvine Welsh. Michael does have common ground with the Scots, and she isn't everyone's cup of gruel, but the subtle use of black comedy sets her work apart. Amidst rape, cancer, child abuse, homelessness and frost-bitten fingers, this comedy is often overlooked.

Her third novel, *All the Dark Air* (Secker, £9.99), exposes the true romance of obese Julie and emotionally autistic Mick. Julie's story is told in the third person but exclusively from her viewpoint. At first this feels like a mistake. Michael's earlier novels were polyphonic, and though the voices were similar, switching between characters helped relieve the tension.

Our heroine's mother has made her homeless by dying after a miserable life spent working in a factory and married to a potty Brian. Julie has been obsessed with big Mick since school. He doesn't know she's alive until she joins the Mind Power group and starts to meditate about him. Mick has a Princess Diana complex: he wants to save victims even worse off than himself. He invites Julie to live with him and his drug addict friend Darren in his strange Uncle Si's rundown house. Mick has a homosexual crush on Darren, but accidentally impregnates Julie – then the laughs start.

The world as seen through Julie's eyes is so claustrophobic it provokes a heightened atmosphere close to hysteria. You're always on the verge of giggling, the way some children laugh when their granny



dies. It becomes possible to identify with Julie's delusions about Mick, and to start pretending that maybe there's something in Mind Power. Julie has "noticed at school that sometimes, if you lied well enough, people begin to support your lie and it became a kind of truth".

Livi Michael is perversely good at creating sexual tension. Julie's jealousy of weak, nihilistic Darren culminates in a cruel attack. This is nothing compared to the discomfort provoked when her friend Alison admits, over a cup of tea in McDonald's, to being envious that her impotent boyfriend has molested her baby daughter. This scene wouldn't work if the characters were middle-class feminists who could afford a cup of tea each. The reader could dismiss them as artificial and pretentious. In Michael's flat prose, Julie and Alison are mundane Mancunians – and that makes their experience both convincing and creepy.

Although enjoyable and accomplished, this third novel lacks the spiritual poetry of Michael's *Under a Thin Moon*: a poetry that lurks invisible at the edge of the page, desperate to make contact. CM

Stephen Blanchard's first novel, *Gagarin and I*, was a singular mix of black comedy and haunting whimsy, subtly and beautifully written. Its qualities are in evidence in *Wilson's Island* (Chatto £9.99), but what this book crucially lacks is focus.

Returning to his hometown after four

years away, Ralph allows himself to become drawn into the shady underworld of his father, a wheeler-dealer in second-hand electrical goods and other less specified commodities. Meanwhile, Ralph's ailing grandmother dotes upon him from her rooms above an amusement arcade, sustained by an abused long-term companion, Eric, and a highly insubstantial cat named Mrs Foster after an enigmatic, one-eyed, dead friend. Also on hand is a bitter ex-wife and the eight-year-old son who has been the butt of Ralph's drunken violence, plus a diverse cast of wide boys, grizzled drunks, crooked-faced women and sundry neighbours whose presence seems laden with import.

Stephen Blanchard is a wonderfully atmospheric writer. The city is a wasteland of skips and diggers, the interiors a squalid chaos of bad smells, bare boards and cardboard boxes. Cliff, Ralph's father, lives in a caravan in a derelict station, where foxes cry like babies at night along the abandoned railway line, "a stir of animal grief in the early hours". Reality consists of a series of odd, inconsequential details recorded with vivid detachment: the landing of a pigeon, the slamming of a car door assume a stoned significance.

Blanchard layers the mundane with the bizarre in a string of short ragged scenes that flit between the many characters and, increasingly, between past and present. A sense of unease is sown, hints of menace gather, somewhere below the surface an untold story simmers – the whole dark concoction brewing up to... Well, not very much, actually. The story is not strong enough to warrant such a weight of obscure significance, such a to-ing and fro-ing between times and characters. At the heart of *Wilson's Island* is a secret, something hidden and hinted at throughout. With its huge cast and dangling conversations, it has the feel of a seedy, low-gear mystery novel, and the reader inevitably spends a large part of the book waiting for the click of pieces falling into place.

The revelations, however, fall flat when they do come. This is partly because Blanchard seems so locked into the habits of obscurity that he can't hear to part with them and hence does so in a somewhat grudging manner, but mainly because it's hard to care about characters as minimal as this, particularly Ralph. They go through the motions, obedient to pulled strings, making the best of an often wooden script. But they don't live.

Stephen Blanchard is a very fine writer, apparently sidetracked by his own cleverness. All the qualities that made his first novel so impressive are here, but the lens has lost its sharpness. I look forward to him finding his focus again. CB

Scapegoats of the European tribe

Wendy Brandmark and Geoff Dyer (right) hear echoes of the Holocaust in two major new novels

The Nature of Blood by Caryl Phillips, Faber, £15.99

Fugitive Pieces by Michael Ondaatje, Bloomsbury, £15.99

Anne Frank lives on in these pages. We recognise her in the guise of Eva Stern, survivor of Auschwitz and Belson, a broken young woman who speaks to her dead mother. She has lost so much – family, youth, her very flesh – that she seems like a ghost nurtured on memories. The gift of a lipstick from a fellow survivor who believes in “a new life for all of us” enrages her, for “to move on is to forget: to forget is a crime”.

Eva's voice is the most moving of all those we hear in this novel's collection of fictional characters made real. She speaks as an outsider not only because she is a Jew and an orphan and later a foreigner in England, but because the Nazis denied her humanity, made her a stranger to herself.

The tragedy of Othello, the other major voice here, is that he has lost sight of his identity. An African with royal blood who was once a slave, he is only accepted by Venetian society because of his military skills. His marriage to a white woman will come to grief because he is “a sad black man, first in a long line of so-called achievers who are too weak to yoke their past with their present”.

Phillips, who described Jews as the “niggers of Europe” in his travel book *The European Tribe*, tries hard to make connections between Jews' and Black people's experiences of oppression. Eva and Othello share the novel with 15th-century Jewish usurers accused of killing a Christian boy and using his blood to make mazzos, and Malka, a young Falasha woman brought from the Ethiopian desert to the ghettos of Israel.

In the last chapter, Eva's uncle, once a member of the Jewish underground in Palestine and now a retired doctor, meets Malka at a club where young women are paid to dance with lonely elderly men. In old age, beset by memories of his family lost in the Holocaust, he needs a companion, and she wants to escape the cramped life of her family.

Before he noticed her, no one asked her to dance, and even he worries that his friends will see him with a black woman. Spirited away from her home, she is never made welcome in the “promised land”. Like Othello, she and her people have lost their bearings.

It is an uneasy meeting for the doctor, and for the owl. With the Black Jews in Israel, Phillips suggests not only a confluence of identities but the oppression of those who become the “other”. This seems an easy irony, a convenient



Anne Frank, 1935-42, from Susan Massotty's new translation of *The Diary of a Young Girl*, Viking, £16 PHOTOGRAPH © AFFAIRS AMSTERDAM

coined coda to stories about the persecution of Jews and Blacks. The doctor's memory of Eva and her sister Margot too neatly wraps up the novel; we begin and end with him yet his is not a strong enough voice to join up all the others.

Perhaps it is impossible to unite narratives and voices remote from

each other, to reach any resolution of Phillips' questions about identity, guilt and oppression. His expository paragraphs about Venice and Othello, meant as ironic commentary, seem pretentious. Even the thoughts of a doctor who treats Eva, though perceptive, are an intrusion into our understanding of her life.

Yet many of the connections Phillips makes between characters are subtle and interesting. Both Eva and Malka are led astray by promises of a new life. Othello's shame at leaving his family is mirrored by Malka's estrangement from her parents and Eva's survivor's guilt.

What finally sustains the book is Eva's voice. Her omelette recollections of the camps, her fantasies in which past and present merge, show us that memories may destroy us but we cannot live without them: “If only I had a photograph, so that people could see who I was.”

Never again will a single story be told as if it were the only one. This line, from *G* by John Berger, was used by Michael Ondaatje as the epigraph for *In the Skin of a Lion*. It is also there like a watermark, touching every page of Anne Michaels's novel.

Her central character is Jakob Beer, a Jew, through the prism of whose life are refracted the deaths of six million others. To say that *Fugitive Pieces* is about the Holocaust threatens to diminish it, however. For just as Beer's life provides the entry point for writing about the Holocaust, so the Holocaust is the entry to a meditation on time, history and memory. And not just human time, human memory, but geological time and rock memories: “witness the astonishing fidelity of minerals magnetized, even after hundreds of millions of years, pointing to the magnetic pole, minerals that have never forgotten magma whose cooling has left them forever desirous. We long for place; but place itself longs.”

10 pages, this is not a vast book; but all except a handful of contemporary novels are dwarfed by its reach. Its compassion, its wisdom. Beer, a poet, is born in Poland in 1933. He dies with his wife in an accident 60 years later. Two-thirds of the book are made up of his notebooks; the last third is narrated by one of his students who travels to Greece in search of them. The student is the son of survivors: Beer himself was the only member of his family to have escaped the Nazis.

When the book begins, in 1941, he is hiding in the mud of the Iron Age village of Biskupin.

Athos, an archaeologist and polymath, finds Jakob and takes him back to the Greek island where he lives. The boy's safety – and his protector's – is constantly threatened (Greece is occupied) but in the tranquillity of Zakynthos Jakob starts to acquire from Athos the heart of folk-lore and knowledge – about plants, rocks, tides, land formations – which will combine with the memory of his vanished family to shape his life and work.

After the war Athos and Jakob emigrate to Canada. Jakob learns English and in this new language – “so alphabet without memory” – finds the faith in words that leads him to tell the stories that have made him what he is.

To present Michaels's novel in

summary is to distort it terribly. Any number of metaphors will do to suggest its intricate structure. It is a jigsaw which fits together precisely because so many pieces are missing. It accretes like strata of rock which are then brought into adjacency by fractures and faults. It works like limestone, “that crushed reef of memory”: the material that shows how time buckles and meets itself “in pleats and folds”.

The ingredients of most novels are poured into a predetermined mould. Reading *Fugitive Pieces*, however, an unprecedented imaginative creation takes shape before your eyes. Beer thinks of history as “the gradual instant” and that is how the reader becomes aware of how special this book is – gradually, instantly.

Michaels was born in Canada in 1958. Before this, her first novel, she published two books of poetry, and one is aware of that obsessive verbal heightening – “Draping slugs splash like tar across the ferns; black icicles of flesh” – we associate with Michael Ondaatje (who is, I suspect, Michaels's major influence after Berger himself). But while Ondaatje uses this urgent intensification for aesthetic effect, in Michaels's case it is an inherent part of her thought.

Metaphor, for Michaels, is the condition achieved by thought at the most intense concentration imaginable. Under this imaginative pressure the capacity for wonder and for rigorous thought are indistinguishable. Her writing is as idea-packed as Roberto Calasso's – minus all the flimflam – and the quality and subtlety of her thought is breathtaking.

Observing the premature birth of a baby, Beer is sure that he can see “the faint stain of a soul” for “it was not yet a self, caught in that almost transparent body”. He feels immediately embarrassed by these remarks, but the woman who is to become his wife replies: “I don't know what the soul is. But I imagine that somehow our bodies surround what has always been.”

I had trouble finding that passage again. Usually I mark particularly impressive passages in pencil, but all except the first 30 pages of my copy of *Fugitive Pieces* are blank. If I'd gone on marking, it would have become un-readable – and this is a book to read many times. I simply can't imagine a better novel being published this year.

GD

Disquiet on the western front

Martin Chalmers on the amazing career of the officer-writer who served two Reichs

Ernst Jünger and Germany: Into the abyss, 1914-1945 by Thomas Nevin, Constable, £20

It would be impossible to find a parallel in Britain, or indeed anywhere, to the career of the German writer Ernst Jünger. Born into a comfortable but atheist middle-class home, he served the whole of the First World War as a junior officer on the Western Front. A commander of shock troops, conducting raids across no man's land, he was repeatedly wounded and received the German Empire's highest military award, the *Pour le mérite* – the Blue Max.

He remained in the army after the war before becoming a writer, but also wrote his memoirs. *In Storms of Steel* is Jünger's most famous book on the experience of trench warfare. He became a spokesman of extreme right-wing opinions, elitist and anti-bourgeois. His work of this time amounts to a justification of the sacrifice of his generation. It refuses an anti-war position, but glorifies in the human body's capacity to survive amid the worst that modern technology can throw at it. He converts the Western Front into a Homeric battlefield in which fighting is its own justification.

Jünger was an early supporter of the Nazi party. By the end of the Weimar Republic, however, he was no longer close to it. He had become something of a salon nationalist, with friends on the left as well as the right. He travelled, collected beetles, experimented with drugs. (Later, he was one of the first to take LSD.) His writing became fragmentary, apocalyptic, hardly of use to the dictatorship which took power in 1933. He disclaimed the plebeian, mass nature of Nazism.

However, if the Nazis viewed him with suspicion, he was still allowed to publish (notably *On the Marble Cliffs*, an allegory of totalitarianism) and continue his privileged bohemian life. He did not leave Germany. Called up in 1939, he spent most of the war in Paris, carrying out undemanding desk jobs; he becomes a flâneur in wartime.

This period is recorded in the diaries used as the basis for Edgardo Cozarinsky's film *One Man's War*. These show his disregard for the Nazis turning to shame at the uniform he wears and of which he has been so proud. They also display an incomprehension of the Resistance, which threatened the collaborationist circles (including figures such as



An officer and a gentleman? Ernst Jünger in Wehrmacht uniform, 1939 PHOTO: AGO

Cocteau, Montberlant, Céline and Sacha Guitry) in which he moved.

Having been close to the officers of the 20th July 1944 plot against Hitler, Jünger was probably lucky to escape with his life. Instead he was given a dishonourable discharge from the army. After the war, he retreated to a village in Southern Germany to devote himself to his garden, to entomology and to writing. He refused to pretend he was a resister or to co-operate with the denazification process. (Because of his inter-war writing, he was quite rightly suspected as an anti-democrat.) Nevertheless, it was in the 1950s and 1960s that his position as a German writer was least challenged, until the generation of 1968 revived the attack on him as a precursor of Nazism.

Astonishingly, Jünger is still alive: he will be 102 this year. He still gives interviews and published major work in his nineties. And he is still a disputed figure. The battle is not simply one of left against right. Some of his most articulate defenders have been on the left, commending his unsentimental insights into war and into the generations of men in the 20th century who were turned into trained killers.

Thomas Nevin's book is part of a revival of interest in Jünger's work. Three of his novels have been published in English in the 1990s; the Paris diaries are being translated and further books on his controversial career and talents are in preparation.

Nevin, an American academic, is good on the uncomfortableness of Jünger's vision, particularly for those who expect a pacifist and humanist account of war. He draws out both the eccentricity and representativeness of Jünger as a member of the generation of 1914. He is good too on his position in Germany today as a discomfiting reminder of a recent past which has become virtually incomprehensible. Inexplicably, however, the book's detailed discussion ends at 1945 and it fails, partly because of the quality of the translation from Jünger's own work, to give much sense of why we should be interested in him as a writer.

Jünger's reputation in English will probably be finally established by the publication of the Paris diaries. They will provide the vantage point from which to assess a witness to the century who stands outside all conventional literary currents and categories.

Nº 10

Trainspotting

Is it really the 10th greatest book of the century? Waterstone's customers and Channel 4 viewers seem to think so. To find out which other great works make up the 100 Books of the Century visit any Waterstone's bookshop, for an essential guide to 20th century literature. If, while you're there, you discover there are some you haven't read, from now until the end of February you can buy any four titles from the list for the price of three. To find out what some well known names think of the top 100, watch Book Choice every night this week on Channel 4 at 7.55pm.

W

WATERSTONE'S

BOOKS OF THE CENTURY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH CHANNEL 4

Website: <http://www.waterstones.co.uk>

Channel 4 and this guide are not affiliated with Waterstone's. The list is compiled by Channel 4 viewers and Waterstone's customers. The list is subject to change without notice.

A week in books

Seamus Heaney is a fine figure of a man, large, rugged and bear-voiced. He also writes great poetry. But *The Spirit Level* – his first book of poems since he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995 – lacks some of the grit and bite of the best of his earlier writing. Beryl Bainbridge is a woman of a certain age: on the podium at an awards ceremony she looks fragile and vulnerable. Every *Man for Himself*, her latest novel, is her finest in a distinguished writing career. Last Tuesday night, Heaney's slim volume narrowly beat Bainbridge's novel to win the Whitbread Book of the Year award. Why did Bainbridge lose?

My opening *ad hominem* remarks are not irrelevant. The final meeting of the judges was, one gathers, a lively one, in which both Heaney and Bainbridge had their energetic supporters. Things probably got quite heated. When that happens, when emotions run high, surprising factors kick into the decision-making process. They enter unnoticed, their effect is inadvertent, and, crucially, we are none of us immune to them, try as we may.

In situations of uncertainty we all of us fall back on generally agreed ideas. Struggling to convince ourselves that our chosen candidate's book really is as good as we claim, we bolster our opinion with what is more broadly accepted than this merely particular instance.

Now, it is broadly accepted that older men have a certain gravitas, while older women remind us of our mothers. A man with a well-established literary reputation is reassuringly grand – his greying hair, even his occasional hesitations betoken a lifetime's serious thoughtfulness. A woman, however established her *oeuvre*, is possibly a bit fey, a trifle lightweight. The social conventions which even today encourage her to be hesitant and concessive in public tell heavily against her.

These are not judgments of writers' work. They are habitual unscrutinised bits of social baggage. When we do think about them, almost all of us are quick to insist that these are outmoded prejudices, and entirely irrelevant when we are trying to agree a ranking of this group of novelists, this collection of poets, or even (as in the case of the Whitbread) this shortlist of assorted poets, biographers and novelists.

Some people will retort that it is I who am prejudiced; that I wanted the woman to win. The truth is that all who judge literary prizes (as I did with the Whitbread best category, but not the final award) genuinely believe that we are out to choose the very best book. But none of us, apparently, can resist the pressures which, time and again, mean that with candidates of closely comparable stature, it is the woman who loses.

Lisa Jardine

The lunch bunch

Jeremy Lewis dips a toe in the Med with a pickled conservator

Himself and Other Animals by David Hughes, Hutchinson, £15.99

David Hughes first met the naturalist and writer Gerald Durrell in 1956. An aspiring novelist, Hughes was then working as an editor with the publishing firm of Rupert Hart-Davis in Soho Square, and spent his days rephrasing the memoirs of men of action. Durrell – then in his early thirties, and five years his senior – had just published a best-seller in the irresistible form of *My Family and Other Animals*, becoming a household name. An ebullient, overpowering young man with fair hair and a "bulbous wedge of a nose", Durrell suggested lunch at Bertorelli's. Doubtless a great deal was drunk – the pages of Hughes's memoir are awash with alcohol, and resound to the pulling or cooing – and a friendship was forged that lasted until Durrell's death in 1995.

A few years later, Hughes and his first wife went to live not far from Jacques and Gerald Durrell in the South of France. Durrell liked to get his writing done before breakfast, leaving the rest of the day free for more congenial pursuits, and since he was never averse to "pressing something liquid to the left kidney", the two couples enjoyed some bistro encounters, at which they were sometimes joined by Durrell's elder brother, Lawrence. They remained in touch after the Hugheses had returned to England; and when, in 1974, the younger man suggested that he should write a biographical portrait of his friend, Durrell was happy to co-operate. Hughes's own life was in turmoil at the time, and the book seemed to lack vigour and conviction. "Not you at your best, old boy," his subject suggested, after which the typescript was consigned to a bottom drawer.

Not long after Durrell's death, his authorised biographer asked Hughes if he could make use of the discarded memoir. Torn between the desire to help a fellow-author and a sudden spasm of self-interest, Hughes tracked it down in a hayloft in Wales; and as he read on from the promising opening paragraph – in which Durrell is spotted snoring on his back, like a "bearded matron



Gerald Durrell and friend: "haunted by the spectres of over-population and environmental ruin"

on the verge of going into labour" – he realised, rightly, that it more than merited publication if trimmed and set in context.

Himself and Other Animals describes a week spent with the Durrells, incorporating a brief biography, interviews with family and – most interestingly of all – Hughes's own observations of his friend. They begin, festively enough, in the house in the South of France rented from brother Larry, before driving to Le Havre to catch the Southampton boat, spending a day in Bournemouth with sister Margaret, and flying on to Jersey, where Durrell's cele-

brated zoo housed many of the rare and threatened species he had brought back from his travels. For all his apparent *joie de vivre* and amiability, Durrell comes across as a melancholy, even misanthropic man, drowning his sorrows in drink and haunted by the spectres of over-population and environmental ruin. No doubt he was haunted too by his own deterioration as a writer, the wit and elegance of the early books giving way to routine jocularities; but Hughes is too kind and too close a friend to labour so sore a point.

Like Lawrence Durrell in his books on Rhodes and Corfu, the

family's paradise lost, David Hughes has a genius for evoking the Mediterranean days given over to long, liquid lunches which begin in the early afternoon and end at suppertime, and far and away the best pages in this likeable, affectionate memoir are those in which he discards his tape-recorder and writes, in his own voice, about Durrell at home in his beloved France. He's good, too, on the vicissitudes of his own life, hinted at rather than spelt out; and it's one of the curious ironies of his book that one ends up more intrigued by the biographer than by his ostensible subject-matter.

Locked in combat

Lucasta Miller is intrigued by a bitchy heroine

The Key by Susan Wicks, Faber, £9.99

Susan Wicks is a poet whose capacity to transfigure everyday objects into universal emblems of love and loss has gained her popularity as well as *succes d'estime*. *Driving My Father*, the touching memoir she brought out last year, showed that her mastery of the expressive domestic detail could be as effective in prose as it is in verse. Wicks's readers have been impressed by the delicacy and focus of her language, but they've also been won over by her honesty and emotional generosity.

It comes as quite a surprise, then, to discover what a sad, screwed up, immature – and even bitchy – heroine she's chosen for her first novel, *The Key*. Narrated in the first person, it explores the damaged psyche of Jan Hickman, a middle-aged, middle-class divorcee whose children have recently left home. Jan runs a bookshop in a small provincial town, and her mundane life is punctuated by nothing more exciting than going to aerobics classes and giggling over the personal ads in the local paper. Flashbacks reveal that in her twenties she had an adulterous affair with her psychology tutor on an adult education programme. The man turned out to be a disaster – patronising, inadequate, an emotional sadist addicted to humiliating women.

Fifteen years on, Jan is still damaged and embittered by the experience. She decides to turn the tables on the male sex by transforming herself into a heartless seductress. She selects a

victim as vulnerable as she herself was all those years ago – a oedipal, thirtyish architect who's recently lost his job and lives with his parents – and calculatedly sets about making him fall in love with her.

This brief summary makes the narrative seem more focused and dramatic than it really is. In fact, Jan's developing relationship with the young man is interwoven with a series of additional strands which makes the novel feel rather diffuse despite its brevity: memories of the old affair, thoughts about her two daughters, scenes in the bookshop, conversations with her friend Deborah, descriptions of her cottage, French madrigals, and moments of horrifying loneliness.

This is a book in which character and language are far more important than plot. The storyline could have been tighter and better directed, but Jan's personality is just about complex enough to maintain the narrative momentum on its own. She has too much psychological depth to be labelled merely a villain or a victim. We are never asked to pass moral judgement upon her, but nor do we ever feel comfortable enough with her to identify wholly with her viewpoint. If not quite an "unreliable narrator", she is certainly a tricky one: she doesn't lie to us, but then she doesn't tell us everything she needs to know.

The result is an intriguing but uncomfortable read – beautifully written, and full of the kind of detailed observations you'd expect from Wicks – but somehow difficult to get to grips with.

Getting nowhere with Ulrika, Kiki and Marie-Francoise

Laurie Taylor warms to a wannabe Bohemian who got left behind on the Left Bank

An Innocent Abroad by Barry Pilton, Corgi Books, £6.99

It's one thing to lose your way in the world – to miss the big wave, turn up an hour too late for the big cultural happening – but quite another to turn such omissions into entertaining copy. So many columnists already employ self-deprecation as their stock-in-trade that one's spirits rather droop at the prospect of another exercise in disingenuousness from someone who, according to the blurb, found themselves in Paris in the late Sixties but was, ha ha, singularly unable to live the life of a bohemian or a revolutionary or, tee hee, emulate the artistic and sexual antics of such literary mentors as Henry Miller and Hemingway.

But re-assurance is close at hand. After no more than a page or two of *An Innocent Abroad*, it's clear that Barry Pilton has more than enough comic skill at his command to refresh the entire genre.

He may not be able to live up to his Bohemian aspirations, but there's no doubt about the honest effort he puts into the enterprise, no question about his desire to live a life which would convince his socially mobile fellow adolescents back home that he spends his days "sipping hot chocolate on Jean-Paul terms with Mr Sartre...and all night long was to be found crotch-deep in can-can girls".

There's genuine hardship here:

hours of solitude in an alien city which only slowly reveals its aesthetic and intellectual attractions, days of searching out ways to make enough money to buy food to take back to a tiny hotel room, and above all, from the point of view of narrative momentum, month after month of trying unsuccessfully to make out with girls. For our hero was a late-qualifier at sex, a sad slimsy bearded 21-year-old who realised only too well that when it came to erotic encounters "where he suffered most from stiffness was the upper lip". In a city which Henry Miller populated with "happy-go-lucky souls who fuck on sight", poor Barry falls in rapid suc-



What a riot: Paris '68

cession with flaxen-haired Ulrika, yogic Marie-Françoise, Amazonian Helma or even Dutch *au pair* Kiki. Neither did his writing provide much compensation: the romantic

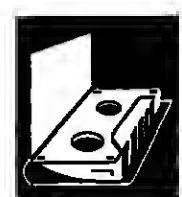
and sensitive travel stories upon which he intermittently embarked hardly managed to engage even his own attention. Compared to his new friend Dave, who suffered torments from his attempt to set down on paper the outline of a whole new moral philosophy, he was a dilettante. "I envied him the fact that he was a driven writer; at best I would never be more than a slightly pushed writer. He had to write, whereas I merely thought."

We can be pretty certain, the way these things go, that Barry will eventually get his girl, but will he also come to realise in common with his delighted readers that his real

gift is for comic prose? Romance and recognition are simultaneous. As he tells his new friend, Theresa, in extravagant detail, of one of his more bizarre Parisian encounters, he caused "a deep, almost nasal laughter to gurgle up helplessly from her shaking bosom". It's a revelation. For too long he has been ignoring the obvious. "Perhaps I had simply to commit the jokey bits of me to paper".

We can only be grateful that he followed through on his discovery. For within this story of growing self-awareness are any number of those necessary truths about life and love which only well-wrought comedy can precisely capture.

Audiobooks



These unabridged recordings, read by two of the best voices in the business, will delight admirers of Alfred Wainwright's famous handwritten and drawn guides to the Lakes. Wainwright was an intensely private man and his autobiography *Memoirs of a Fell Wanderer* (Chivers, 3hrs 30 mins, £9.95, Tel: 01225 443400), acerbic but with flashes of lyricism, is all he wanted us to know about him. Those who want to retain his spiritual flavour should leave it at that. Less fastidious inquirers will enjoy Hunter Davies's frank *Wainwright: The Biography* (Chivers, 12hrs, £16.99) for the passionate love letters 58-year-old "Red" wrote to his second wife.

Christina Hardyment

Paperbacks

By Christopher Hirst and Lucasta Miller

Watermark by Joseph Brodsky (Penguin, £6.99) For anyone going to Venice, this slim volume of shimmering prose deserves a place alongside J G Links's incomparable handbook. You would not, however, expect a poet's view of *La Serenissima* to serve quite the same function as an orthodox guide: "the eye, our only raw, fishlike internal organ, indeed swims here. It darts, flaps, oscillates, dives...". Brodsky's brilliant reflections are the distillation of almost two decades of annual visits, always in winter and up to a month in length. As in the city itself, you may lose your bearings, but the experience remains constantly entrancing.

Hanging Up by Delia Ephron (Fourth Estate, £6.99) A high-gloss take on a familiar American theme, the alcoholic parent. Based on Ephron's famous family, this novel largely consists of zappy dialogue, often via the phone, as when Eve, the narrator, mishears her

father's slurred announcement of his first overdose as "I took No-Doz" (an over-the-counter stimulant). The terminal scenes in a geriatric clinic are vivid and moving, but much of the book consists of self-absorbed gabbling by Eve and her two sisters. An easy but shallow read, like flipping through a photo album. Unsurprisingly, the film rights have already been sold and sister Nora is slated to direct.

Flight Paths of the Emperor by Steven Heighton (Granta, £8.99) A rather aimless collection of short stories which probes the gulf between Japan and the West, in particular Osaka and Canada. Often this divide is further emphasised by the generation gap. In one of the more telling fragments, a group of Japanese men move to defend a teenage girl of mixed race who is being attacked by a drunken westerner. "But I'm her father," he pleads, Heighton, who is also a poet, strives too

hard for resonant effects: "men practising judo, their eyes and teeth glinting like fireflies in the dark, while singers in kimono rehearse mournful songs under the pines".

The Encyclopedia of Beatles People by Bill Harry (Blandford, £14.99) A delight to those obsessed by the Fab Four but a mystery to the rest of us. Engagingly, many of those included come from the seedier end of the showbiz spectrum, such as Alfred Lennon, John's absent dad, who issued an "autobiographical record" called "It's My Life". We also learn that Darcy Bussell's father ran Apple Tailoring for his two-month existence in 1968 and that Dhani Harrison (born 1978), after "a somewhat cosseted life", now studies design technology. Despite his passion for minutiae, Harry omits the fact that Jagger and Richards were among the chorus for "All You Need is Love".

Uses and Abuses by Aldo Busi (Faber, £7.99) Free of chapter breaks, Busi's magic carpet rolls seamlessly from Lugano to Brussels to "that hateful place" London (he was arrested for "indecent acts in public") to Reykjavik to Caracas – and we're still only on page 57. While Busi's main object of interest is himself ("I feel a great love and tenderness for my sleeping body"), fortunately he is also intrigued by almost everyone else he meets. Genet-like, he is drawn to the underclass. While exulting in his homosexuality, Busi repeatedly reveals a keen eye for girls in tight black trousers. An odd, hilarious, angry book from this omnivorous, ceaselessly opinionated voyager.

The Size of Thoughts: Essays and Other Lumber by Nicholson Baker (Vintage, £7.99) This prose collection by the American novelist Nicholson Baker offers a rich intellectual omnium-gatherum of critical insights, word games, self-



-Can you write a winning short story for 6-9 year-old children?

Next week in *The Tahloid* we launch the 1997 Story of the Year competition. First prize is £2,000, with £500 for the two runners up – and to celebrate the competition's fifth birthday, we will be awarding a specially commissioned trophy to all

three. The winning story will be published in the *Independent Magazine*, and the top 10 stories will appear in a special anthology by Scholastic Children's Books. So sharpen those pencils – and read next Thursday's tabloid for details.

exploration and lateral thinking. In Baker's hands, nerdy, pedantic scholarship becomes exciting, witty and liberated. Literary and linguistic topics, such as the history of punctuation or the use of spatial metaphors for mental processes, get the best out of

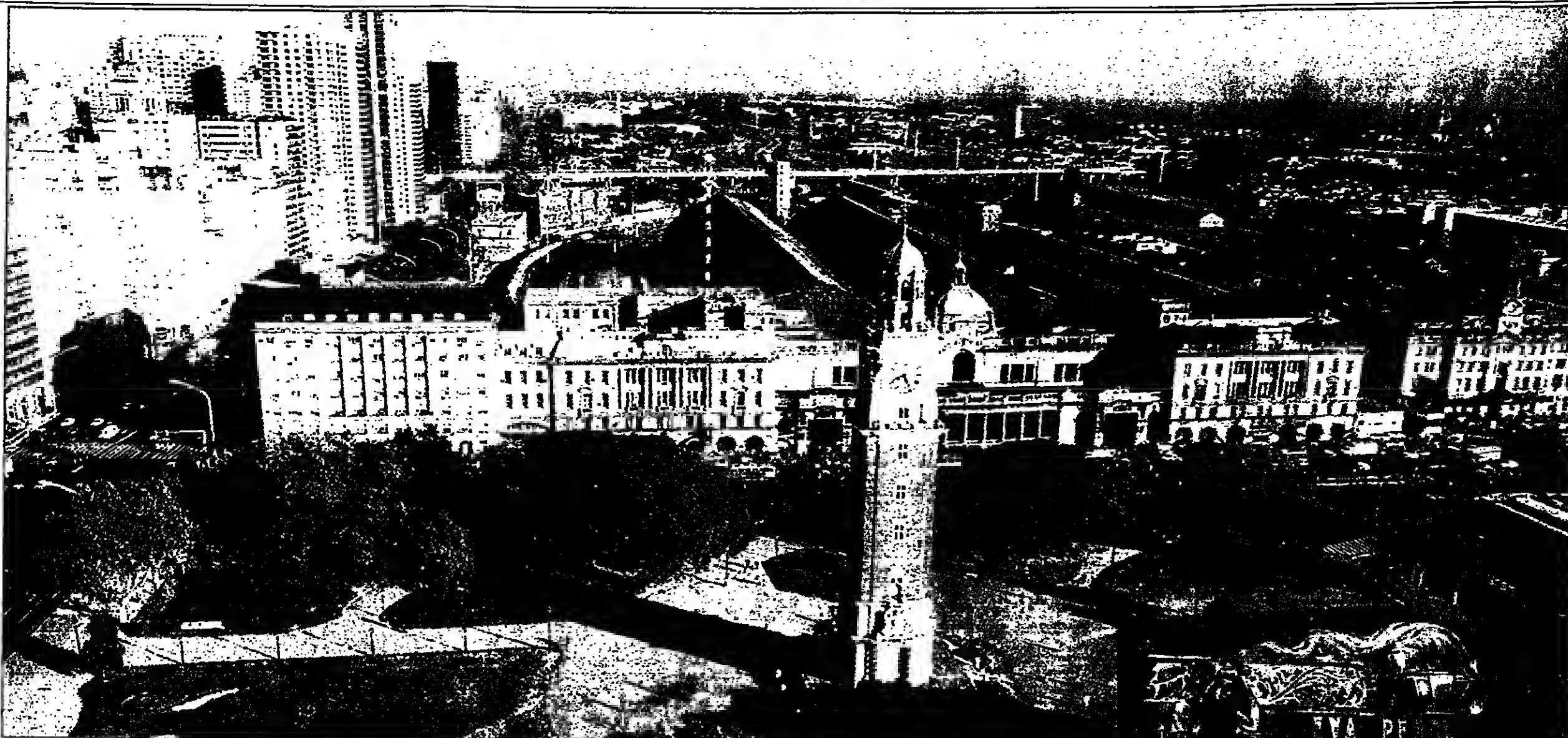
him, but even fingernail parings can inspire his curiosity. His urbane facility with language and ideas sometimes lapses into tricksiness, but his enthusiasm for such a wide range of literature – from Nabokov to Petrarch to Charlotte Brontë – makes up for the occasional cheap pun.

See page 19 for our 20th-century Fantasy Book League competition

صكتا ن الامل

travel & outdoors

Skiing10
Student travel writing
competition.....13
Family outings15
Gardening17



Buenos Aires' Plaza de la Fuerza Aerea, overlooking the station and defiantly British clock tower. Inset: Evita Peron's tomb

PHOTOS: PETER WILSON SOPHIE CAMPBELL

Where the camera lies

Sophie Campbell looks between the frames of 'Evita' for the real Argentina. Or is that Hungary?

Turn up to Alan Parker's sumptuous new film *Evita* hoping to "be a part of BA, Buenos Aires, Big Apple" – as the libretto promises – and you're in for a frustrating couple of hours. The soaring modern skyline of the city – not to mention spirited local resistance – made filming difficult and controversial. So once the scenes of Eva Duarte's early life in an authentically dusty town on the pampas are over, you are cast into more international waters.

For instance, the *bolche* (bar/restaurant) where Jimmy Nail first performs as Magaldi (Geordie tango singer and first man to seduce Evita) and the louches bars and hotels where our heroine begins her long slog to the top, were sets at Shepperton Studios. Tanks rumbling into the city's plazas in fact rumbled into Liberty Square in Budapest. The magnificent funeral cortege, in which even the horses look depressed, slow-marched not down the Avenida de Mayo, as it did in 1952, but up Constitution Avenue, near Budapest's appealingly Westminstersque parliament building.

But for all that, the production team did pull off the greatest coup of the lot: the real Casa Rosada, Government House, which stands on the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos

Aires. Madonna and co-celebrities had to grant a personal audience to President Carlos Menem (or was it the other way around?) to secure its use. This building – called Rosada because it is the colour of an underdone *beife*, originally painted with lime, beef fat and blood – is probably the most powerful existing reminder of the Peronist era. It was built in 1894, when Argentina was so wealthy from its meat, hides and grain that the expression "as rich as an Argentine" was all the rage in Paris. It was also a time of mass immigration, mainly from southern Europe, bringing labour for meat-packing factories and dockyards; workers who 40 years on would become Juan and Evita Peron's main power base – their beloved *descamisados*, or "shirtless ones".

So if the heart of Argentina is Buenos Aires, and the heart of Buenos Aires is Capital Federal (the inner city area bounded by Avenida General Paz and the Riachuelo Canal), then the heart of all three is the Casa Rosada. And although Evita's offices, from which she showered gifts on the poor, were in fact in the Ministry of Labour, she is remembered as a tiny figure on the balcony overlooking mighty "May Square".

Location hunter

Getting to Budapest: the only airlines flying from London to the Hungarian capital are British Airways (0345 222111) and Malev (0171-439 0577). Fares are around £200 return. Getting to Buenos Aires: Quest Worldwide (0181-947 3322) has a return fare to Buenos Aires on KLM from most British airports via Amsterdam of £362 including tax. This fare is extremely good value, and availability is strictly limited.

The *Evita* trail: as yet, there is no museum dedicated to the Perons, though there are murmurings about setting up a special "Evita tour" of Buenos Aires. Until then, you can visit the rather dull basement museum of the Casa Rosada, do a backstage tour of the Colon Opera House where she made some glittering appearances, and visit the Recoleta cemetery. Tonight at 8pm, Channel 4 is showing *Evita: the Unquiet Grave*.

The Plaza itself was built on the edge of the River Plate, long before the docks were constructed. It started life as a 16th-century fortress, was later a marketplace, and only after the Casa Rosada was built did it become a litmus test for the mood of the nation. The 300,000-strong crowd of workers which turned out to demand Peron's release from prison in October 1945 – brilliantly recreated in the film with 4,000 extras – was the first mass

demonstration to take place there. Three years after Evita's death it was bombed by the air force in an attempt to get rid of Peron (it worked – for 18 years, at least) and in 1982, when the Falklands War broke out, a leaping crowd gathered to shout "If you hate the English, jump!" The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo still circle the square each Thursday afternoon, demanding to know what happened to their missing children

during the "Dirty War" of the Seventies. There are other snippets from Buenos Aires, too. If you love the place, you can't help smiling as Madonna takes her first ride in a *colectivo*, a period version of the chrome and metal buses which roar up and down the grid of streets, carrying everyone from blue-smocked schoolchildren to classy ladies in fur.

The railway station of Retiro, built by the British in a doggedly Victorian style (the rest of the city was a rash of mansard roofs and elegant French façades) still serves the provinces to the north and west. And sadly, the *villa miseria* – a shanty town of the type which seems to ring every great South American city – where Ché (Antonio Banderas) dances with a little peasant girl, looked entirely authentic. These were not just an aberration of the Forties.

In the absence of dialogue, perhaps this is what the film conveys best: the contrast between rich and poor that fuelled Evita's hatred of the middle and upper classes. Those early scenes of life on the pampas are familiar to anyone who has driven out across the flatlands to visit friends in Buenos Aires province. While the *estancia* houses hide from the vastness in cool thickets of (imported) trees, the *pueblos* lie out

there in the sun with their one-storey houses, square plazas and somnolent dogs, waiting for something, anything, to happen. Given the choice between that and the big city, what would you do?

Personally, I found Evita achingly long. See it for the crowd scenes, for Jonathan Pryce, for the criollo faces, for Madonna's 85 costume changes, 39 hats and 56 pairs of earrings. But after the 15th reprise of "Don't Cry For Me, Argentina", you may find yourself sympathising with the graffiti that went up in BA when filming began, saying "Puera (Go Home) Madonna!" I thought Evita was never, ever going to die.

And when she finally did, the religious implications of an actress called Madonna playing a saint called Evita in a film about a dictator's wife were all too much for the Basilio of St Stephen in Budapest, which flatly refused to let either of them lie in state under its portals.

The coffin ended up in Hungary's Museum of Ethnography instead. The remains of the real Evita, meanwhile, have finally come home to rest at the Recoleta cemetery – some of the most expensive real estate in BA – where she eventually joined the Establishment she so despised.

FLIGHTS FROM ONLY £99 (EXCL. TAX)

0800 767 737

Lauda-air

London - Vienna £99 and less. Manchester - Vienna from £164 incl. tax. Only with Lauda Air. Book by 14th January 1997. Special conditions apply.

THE BEST VALUE WORLDWIDE WORLDCOVER

TRAVEL INSURANCE

0800 365 121

- Comprehensive annual multi-trip cover from £10
- Unique free services
- Call us 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

www.att777.co.uk

You have no access to a car. You want to travel around Britain over Christmas. Do you have a snowflake's chance?

That was the theme of the pre-Christmas story that doubled as our Christmas competition. Buried among the minutiae of trains from Gatwick, boats from Dover and planes to Rio were the names of 16 Christmas hits. Your Yuletide task was to identify them all, and to complete the crucial tie-breaker: "The best book to give Santa when he comes to town is the *Rough Guide to ...*". Hundreds of readers took the challenge.

The answers appear on page 13. Imbued with festive generosity, we did not insist on perfection, but judged winners on the inventiveness of the tie-breaker.

Most of the entries fitted three broad categories: logistics, safety, and dreadful puns. In the latter class, the three winners were all women: Jenny Dunstan of Derby with the *Rough Guide to Socks-on*; Susan Bagley of Grimsby, who suggests Northern Poland ("After all, Santa Claus is North Polish"); and Trish Marshall of Bletchley, with the *Rough Guide to Hungary, Greece, Turkey, Krakatoa and Madeira* (think about it).

Sleigh safety was a concern of many readers, such as Steve Crick of Dumbartonshire (*Drink-driving regulations around the world*). Four entries with different names came from the same Hull address; the best was the one claiming to be from the garden gnome: *Rough Guide to Heat-resistant underwear, for when the home fires keep burning*.

A Euro-angle was injected by a number of readers, including Mark Waldron, Nottinghamshire, who suggested *Working with Children and Animals: the latest EU directives on Elves and Safety*.

The logistics of travelling the world and its chimneys in 24 hours were tackled by Will Loughlin of Blackburn (*Rough Guide to Gas Central Heating Boiler Balanced Flues*), Richard Brett of Kent (*Roofs of the World – including the North Pole*) and, to help when

choosing timely presents, Barry Maher of London: *Good Years, Bad Years and Buzz Lightyears*.

Finally, like a black hole amid all the galactic goodwill, the entry from Peter Lis of Leamington reads simply *Rough Guide to Roasting Redundant Reindeer*.

Honourable mentions (but no prizes – we've just run out) to Andy Swapp of Oxfordshire, who came up with a title that encompassed another 16 titles and began *Rough Guide to Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree ...* and to Simon Dredge of Kidderminster, besides writing an entire synopsis for the forthcoming *Rough Guide to Global Logistics*. Mr Dredge wrote:

"The *Independent* Christmas travel quiz has become a yearly ritual for me. I find it a welcome break from the 'Wish you were here?' type of competition, like 'Name the capital city of England; is it (a) a bicycle, (b) yellow or (c) London.' But I think it's getting easier. So please, next year, toughen up."

Congratulations to all 10 winners, who each receive the *Rough Guide to Rock*. Commiserations to everyone else – but rest assured that another Christmas competition is presently being concocted somewhere near the North Pole. And it's a tough one.

Where can you get a great summer holiday for just 10p?

A superb holiday for just 10p! Yes, that's all it could cost you to book your holiday with Eclipse Direct*. It's quick. It's convenient. And by booking direct, you are assured of outstanding value for money too.

Eclipse Direct offers incredibly low prices for a wide range of quality holidays. So, sit back in the comfort of your own home and talk to the people who really know their Canaries from their Caribbean.

Choose now and take advantage of our special early booking offers.

For a brochure featuring quality holidays to over 30 sunshine destinations from Majorca to Mexico – all at incredibly low prices – telephone or complete and return the coupon below.

TELEPHONE 0181 880 5101

*A 3 minute standard domestic call to Eclipse from anywhere in the UK costs less than 10p at weekends and only 30p even at peak rate. (BT rates at time of going to press. 30p/minute is the average time taken to make a booking).

Please send me a copy of the Eclipse Direct Summer 1997 brochure. Complete and return this coupon to: Eclipse Direct, FREEPOST R0C2872, London N4 1BR.

Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Eclipse DIRECT

Snow had fallen, so might you

Stephen Wood debunks the myths about winter sports injuries

The wisdom on winter sports injuries is handed down from skier to skier, and from one newspaper article to the next. That's how we all know that late-afternoon runs are the most dangerous, that you are most likely to injure yourself on the third day of your skiing trip, that snowboarders have more accidents than skiers. There is truth in some of this shared knowledge, but much of it cannot survive exposure to the facts – as collected by Médecins de Montagne, a network of 74 doctors working in 52 French winter sports centres.

Its statistics, apart from disproving myths such as the dangers of the third day, also throw up some strange-but-true phenomena in the pathology of the skiing injury. For example, women over the age of 25 are twice as likely as men to suffer from a rupture of the anterior cruciate ligament in the knee, now the most widespread serious injury among skiers – although women average the same number of injuries overall as men (another myth debunked). Snowboarders do suffer more injuries than skiers, but only because they are so accident-prone as beginners; when they have seven days' experience behind them, snowboarders are no more likely to be injured on the slopes than skiers. (In contrast, there is no discernible difference between the injury rate of experienced skiers and that of beginners.) And the British are no more injury-prone than other nationalities: "I suspect that British knees are the same as everyone else's," says Bernard Dupuy, one of six doctors working in the ski area of La Plagne.

Dupuy and his five colleagues supply to Médecins de Montagne information on the injuries in the La Plagne area, which have run consistently at 25 per 10,000 skiers day after day (the second and the fourth, as well as the third) for the last five years. They get back endless graphs showing the evolution of the ski injury since 1975, which Dupuy talked me through in his surgery up at 2050m in Belle Plagne. They show, dramatically, the effect of developments in ski equipment. The graph for limb fractures is in the shape of

a flattened "X": lower-limb fractures have fallen from almost 70 per cent to about 25 per cent, with upper limbs doing the opposite. The curves cross in the early Eighties, by which time most skiers had rigid plastic boots and easy-release bindings to protect their legs. But with the new bindings, arms and shoulders hit the piste harder, and snowboarders – who break a lot of wrists – have topped up the recent figures for upper-limb fractures.

Tight-fitting plastic boots have had another striking effect. By protecting the ankle and lower calf, they transfer the shock of a fall or other impact up to the leg's weakest point, the knee; and although damage to the anterior cruciate ligament was almost unknown in the early Eighties, it now accounts for 10 per cent of all skiing injuries in France – about 13,000 cases a year.

"The problem is," says Dupuy, "that the knee is not nearly as well designed as the ankle, and has to be held together with these ligaments. If I had a leg injury, I would much rather break an ankle than damage my knee: an ankle will heal completely in a few months, but knee damage can stay with you for the rest of your life." Dupuy does, however, still see broken ankles: "The soft boots which snowboarders now use are bringing back the injuries which I used to see with skiers when I started my practice 20 years ago."

What about the far higher incidence of anterior cruciate ligament injuries among women? "I suspect that it's a problem of female anatomy," he says. "The hips are wider, so the hip bone is more sharply angled into the knee. But we simply don't know yet."

Among the variables affecting the likelihood of injury, time is important. But the afternoon, between 3pm and 4pm, when skiers are tired, is not the only danger period. "There is another peak at 11am," says Dupuy. "This may be because people don't eat enough at breakfast to compensate for cold weather, which uses energy more quickly." Bad weather, however, does not seem to be an important factor – "perhaps because it makes skiers



Damage to the knee now accounts for 10 per cent of ski injuries in France

PHOTOGRAPH: STOCK SHOT

more cautious. But although their incidence stays constant, the injuries change with the conditions. Broken hips and shoulders tell me the snow is icy; more twisted knees and sprains, and I know there's soft, deep snow.

So what, apart from having a big breakfast, can a skier do to avoid injuries? If you are a woman, slacken the grip of your bindings: for the last two years Médecins

de Montagne has recommended this to lessen the danger of knee ligament damage. If you are a child, wear a crash helmet: the high incidence of head injuries among children, partly a result of their heads being proportionately larger than adults', led to the *skiz casque* campaign for under-16s in French resorts – which has cut head injuries by 40 per cent. At least among skiers (early teenage snow-

boarders are too cool for crash hats). Dr Dupuy's regime for healthy skiing is as follows. "Skiing is a sport; and as for other sports, you should eat well, drink well – water, not alcohol – and get plenty of sleep. But avoid sleeping pills: at altitude people often sleep badly because of the thinner air, but the pills will make you drowsy in the morning, so you won't ski well. And, most important, you should

exercise for a couple of months before going skiing." He is not talking about exercise for better skiing, so much as for better falling. "People who have trained muscles can control themselves when they are falling. I see people here who cannot get up off the couch without help because their stomach muscles are not strong enough. When they fall, they are out of control."

TEL: 0171 293 2222

travel • overseas

FAX: 0171 293 2505

USA

FLY BRITISH AIRWAYS

CONCORDE

EXPERIENCE

SUPERSONIC DAILY TO NEW YORK
There are 2 daily scheduled Concorde departures linking Heathrow and New York and we can arrange connections from most UK airports and, where required, we can use the BA subsonic services which link New York with London, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow. All arrangements, including reservations at selected Manhattan hotels, are tailor-made to your precise requirements. Please call us to discuss your itinerary and our very advantageous prices.

There is a selection of Concorde flights from Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London and Cardiff.

For reservations or a copy of our 1997 and the Concorde Cruises brochure, please call us now, or write to:
David Gladwin Concorde Ltd,
19 Main Street, Keyworth,
Nottingham. NG12 5AA
Telephone: 0115 9372455
Fax: 0115 9376980
<http://ourworld.computer.com/homepages/dgconcorde>

American Airlines
HOLIDAYS SPECIAL OFFER

Valentine's Day in New York at the Ramada Millard Plaza
£335.00 per person
Price includes:
• Return flights on American Airlines from London Heathrow non-stop to New York (JFK)
• 3 nights accommodation at the Ramada Millard Plaza, based on 2 adults sharing a room
Valid for departure on 13th Feb 97 and returning on 18th Feb 97 ONLY
CALL NOW FOR OTHER GREAT FARES INCLUDING:
Raleigh Durham from £299
Dallas Fort Worth from £279
Los Angeles from £299
San Francisco from £299
Call now about our amazing discounts for ideal NOW OPEN ON SUNDAYS (10.00AM - 4.00PM)
Reservations: 0181 577 9966
Offers subject to availability
ABTA V5222. Prices do not include Airport Security tax £11.00 ATOL 2700

MAJOR USA
CRAZY PRICES TO NEW YORK
0171 485 7017
SERVING YOU THE TRAVELLER SINCE 1974

NEW ENGLAND
COUNTRY HOMES

A superb collection of coastal, lakeside & inland properties throughout New England.
FREE 132 PAGE BROCHURE
CALL: (0990) 143686 (24 Hrs)
Queue Ref. N259.
ATOL 791

Florida
VACATIONS

An exclusive selection of 17 villas & apartments in 17 areas with flights to and from international airports.
CALL NOW FOR OUR BROCHURES
01727 541530
ABTA 1614 ABTA 2078 ABTA 2079

NEW ENGLAND Cape Cod and Vermont Superior family resorts and private houses. Bridgewater Travel ABTA V7728. Broch 0181 707 8794

NEW ENGLAND VACATIONS - Discover the best of New England. Fully bonded. ABTA V516 ABTA ATOL 2875.

Latin America
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Costa Rica, Guatemala & Cuba. Highly flexible individual tours & holidays. Jungle holidays, nature reserves. 0181-847 4748 ATOL 889.

Caribbean
STUNNING CUBAN INTERCHANGE. Tel: 0181 691 3612 ATOL 2423

Far East
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Thailand, Vietnam, highly flexible tours & holidays for individuals. 0181-847 4748 ATOL 889.

BAU AND INDONESIA Adventure, wildlife. Brochure: 01897 73599.

Austria
IN A BEAUTIFUL Alpine village, on the edge of a Salzburg 3 hour train ride house 01633 868050

South African Affair
CAPE TOWN WINELANDS GARDEN ROUTE NATAL TRANSVAAL ZIMBABWE. A unique selection of Classic Hotels, Game Reserves and Charming Homes & Gardens. Fly drive with direct flights to Durban, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Harare, South African Airline. ATOL 1234 57 Harare Road, London W5 5QH
0171-381 5222

Australia & New Zealand
Complex Tailor Made New Zealand itineraries a specialty. **SPECIAL OFFER** FLIGHTS TO NEW ZEALAND ON AIR NEW ZEALAND **£729** includes 2 FREE flights within New Zealand or a free return European flight. Departures 15 Apr - 30 June. (See website for details and booking conditions) **01585 40891** 31120 ABTA V7233

Balearics
EXCLUSIVE Villas in Mallorca, Formentor & Menorca. Colour brochure. Jervis Villa Holidays 01732 848449. 0181-817446 ATOL 2025

Cyprus
VILLAS WITH POOLS. Village houses in unspoilt areas. Plus villa, swimming, excellent views. 0181-817446 ATOL 2025

Canaries
EXCLUSIVE villa holidays in Lanzarote, Tenerife & Fuerteventura. Colour brochure. Jervis Villa Holidays 01732 848449. 0181-817446 ATOL 2025

Corsica
Discover the Mediterranean's best-kept secret, an island of glorious beaches, and spectacular mountains, unspoiled by mass tourism. We offer villa with pool, scenic cottages, luxurious apartments and stylish hotels, plus flexible "Weekend" holidays. **0181 995 9323** ABTA V1337 ATOL 1928 ATOL

Corsica for the Discerning Traveller
Discover the Mediterranean's best-kept secret, an island of glorious beaches, and spectacular mountains, unspoiled by mass tourism. We offer villa with pool, scenic cottages, luxurious apartments and stylish hotels, plus flexible "Weekend" holidays. **0181 995 9323** ABTA V1337 ATOL 1928 ATOL

Italy
LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special villas, vineyard, Apia in & around enchanting medieval San Gimignano between Florence & Siena. 1997 brochure 0181-847 4748 ATOL 2025

Carefree Italy
01 293 55227
LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special villas, vineyard, Apia in & around enchanting medieval San Gimignano between Florence & Siena. 1997 brochure 0181-847 4748 ATOL 2025

Italy
LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special villas, vineyard, Apia in & around enchanting medieval San Gimignano between Florence & Siena. 1997 brochure 0181-847 4748 ATOL 2025

Italy
LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special villas, vineyard, Apia in & around enchanting medieval San Gimignano between Florence & Siena. 1997 brochure 0181-847 4748 ATOL 2025

Germany
GERMANY and beyond in high-speed trains, sleeper and motorail. New: our UK booking service for your rail tickets! Bookings: 0181-390 8833 Brochures: 01476 591 311

Germany
GERMANY - Daily low cost flights and hotel accommodation. All major credit cards. Please call German Travel Centre 0181 429 2900. ABTA 16085 ATOL 2577

Italy
CITALIA's ITALY
Romantic Sorrento Fascinating Sicily Unspoilt Sardinia Enchanting Tuscany and much more in our 1997 brochure. Brochure Ref DYN 01235 824354 ABTA 16085 ATOL 2577

Italy
Walking & Cycling Holidays in Tuscany & Umbria. Discover these timeless regions and explore the delightful countryside, the architectural and cultural treasures. Free wine, traditional specialties and friendly, comfortable hosts. Ring now for your 1997 colour brochure.

Italy
HEADWATER 01606 42220 ATOL 2412

Italy
Individual holidays for the Discerning Traveller. Tuscany & Umbria. Discover these timeless regions and explore the delightful countryside, the architectural and cultural treasures. Free wine, traditional specialties and friendly, comfortable hosts. Ring now for your 1997 colour brochure.

Italy
LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special villas, vineyard, Apia in & around enchanting medieval San Gimignano between Florence & Siena. 1997 brochure 0181-847 4748 ATOL 2025

Italy
LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special villas, vineyard, Apia in & around enchanting medieval San Gimignano between Florence & Siena. 1997 brochure 0181-847 4748 ATOL 2025

Italy
LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special villas, vineyard, Apia in & around enchanting medieval San Gimignano between Florence & Siena. 1997 brochure 0181-847 4748 ATOL 2025

Italy
LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special villas, vineyard, Apia in & around enchanting medieval San Gimignano between Florence & Siena. 1997 brochure 0181-847 4748 ATOL 2025

Italy
LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special villas, vineyard, Apia in & around enchanting medieval San Gimignano between Florence & Siena. 1997 brochure 0181-847 4748 ATOL 2025

Italy
LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special villas, vineyard, Apia in & around enchanting medieval San Gimignano between Florence & Siena. 1997 brochure 0181-847 4748 ATOL 2025

Italy
LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special villas, vineyard, Apia in & around enchanting medieval San Gimignano between Florence & Siena. 1997 brochure 0181-847 4748 ATOL 2025

Italy
LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special villas, vineyard, Apia in & around enchanting medieval San Gimignano between Florence & Siena. 1997 brochure 0181-847 4748 ATOL 2025

Italy
LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special villas, vineyard, Apia in & around enchanting medieval San Gimignano between Florence & Siena. 1997 brochure 0181-847 4748 ATOL 2025

Italy
LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special villas, vineyard, Apia in & around enchanting medieval San Gimignano between Florence & Siena. 1997 brochure 0181-847 4748 ATOL 2025

THE INDEPENDENT
Newspaper Publishing plc regrets that although every reasonable precaution is taken, no responsibility can be accepted for flights and/or accommodation offered through these columns, or any loss arising therefrom. Readers are advised to take all necessary precautions before entering into any travel arrangements.

Portugal
Portugal for the Discerning Traveller. Truly individual villas with pools, gardens, minor houses and selected hotels and pensions all over the fascinating country. Flexible "Weekend" holidays and city breaks. Plus spring and summer painting and photography weeks. **0181 995 9323** ABTA V1337 ATOL 1928 ATOL

Portugal
Quality villas along the magnificent coastline, and a unique selection of cottages, pensions and selected hotels and pensions all over the glorious, unspoilt countryside. Most properties have pools. **0171-385 4775**

Portugal
Holiday properties throughout the most beautiful areas of Portugal. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE. **0181 995 9323** ABTA V1337 ATOL 1928 ATOL

Portugal
BARBARA READ VILLA RENTALS. Specialist in Algarve. Fully bonded. ABTA V516 ABTA ATOL 2875.

Portugal
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Flexible fly-drive tours to south coast. Characterful houses, minor houses, pools, gardens, minor houses, selected hotels and pensions all over the glorious, unspoilt countryside. Most properties have pools. **0171-385 4775**

Portugal
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Flexible fly-drive tours to south coast. Characterful houses, minor houses, pools, gardens, minor houses, selected hotels and pensions all over the glorious, unspoilt countryside. Most properties have pools. **0171-385 4775**

Portugal
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Flexible fly-drive tours to south coast. Characterful houses, minor houses, pools, gardens, minor houses, selected hotels and pensions all over the glorious, unspoilt countryside. Most properties have pools. **0171-385 4775**

Portugal
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Flexible fly-drive tours to south coast. Characterful houses, minor houses, pools, gardens, minor houses, selected hotels and pensions all over the glorious, unspoilt countryside. Most properties have pools. **0171-385 4775**

Portugal
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Flexible fly-drive tours to south coast. Characterful houses, minor houses, pools, gardens, minor houses, selected hotels and pensions all over the glorious, unspoilt countryside. Most properties have pools. **0171-385 4775**

Portugal
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Flexible fly-drive tours to south coast. Characterful houses, minor houses, pools, gardens, minor houses, selected hotels and pensions all over the glorious, unspoilt countryside. Most properties have pools. **0171-385 4775**

Portugal
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Flexible fly-drive tours to south coast. Characterful houses, minor houses, pools, gardens, minor houses, selected hotels and pensions all over the glorious, unspoilt countryside. Most properties have pools. **0171-385 4775**

Portugal
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Flexible fly-drive tours to south coast. Characterful houses, minor houses, pools, gardens, minor houses, selected hotels and pensions all over the glorious, unspoilt countryside. Most properties have pools. **0171-385 4775**

Portugal
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Flexible fly-drive tours to south coast. Characterful houses, minor houses, pools, gardens, minor houses, selected hotels and pensions all over the glorious, unspoilt countryside. Most properties have pools. **0171-385 4775**

Portugal
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Flexible fly-drive tours to south coast. Characterful houses, minor houses, pools, gardens, minor houses, selected hotels and pensions all over the glorious, unspoilt countryside. Most properties have pools. **0171-385 4775**

Portugal
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Flexible fly-drive tours to south coast. Characterful houses, minor houses, pools, gardens, minor houses, selected hotels and pensions all over the glorious, unspoilt countryside. Most properties have pools. **0171-385 4775**

Portugal
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Flexible fly-drive tours to south coast. Characterful houses, minor houses, pools, gardens, minor houses, selected hotels and pensions all over the glorious, unspoilt countryside. Most properties have pools. **0171-385 4775**

Portugal
SUNIL DISCOVERY. Flexible fly-drive tours to south coast. Characterful houses, minor houses, pools, gardens, minor houses, selected hotels and pensions all over the glorious, unspoilt countryside. Most properties have pools. **0171-385 4775**

Peter Fynn gets up early in New York

But by now you'll want to see some action. The best place to head for at this time of the morning is somewhere that sells

The best British Airways fare we found was £208.40 through Campus Travel (0171-730 2101). And if you like the sound of an unusual stopover, then Airline Network (01772 727272) offers one in Reykjavik, on Icelandair for £212.

things. The bustling Union Square Market in the Village at Park Avenue and Broadway starts at 7am on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. If you fancy something more brash, go along to the Fulton Street fish market: it's all about noise, crackling activity and exciting smells. The market will already be open for business when you

Although it's still early, street traders will already be out selling coffee, roasted chestnuts and cakes. Despite the current overtly faddish eating habits of the Americans – caffeine-free everything, low-cholesterol eggs and sugarless candy – the whole nation feeds as it always has, in huge volume and with daunting frequency.

As the day unfolds, gently but expansively, you'll come to realise that New York is somehow just what you expected, yet nothing like you thought it would be. The subway trains are free of graffiti and the cops have time for you; the cabs really are yellow; and you'll see plenty of drunks and beggars around. The place will pull at your emotions with a force stronger than gravity. It's brutal and beautiful, rich and poverty-stricken, cosmopolitan and racist. There's nowhere else on earth quite like it.



Absorb the early morning in New York - brutal and beautiful, rich and poverty-stricken

PHOTO: TOM PILSTON

TEL: 0171 293 2222

travel • overseas

FAX: 0171 293 2505

France

SELF CATERING
Character COTTAGES
in France

Brochure Line
01 242
240 310

VFB ESTABLISHED 1963 **ATOL 1463**

VFB Holidays (IND)
Cheltenham GL50 3FB

SELF CATERING
Character HOTELS
in France

01 242
240 310

VFB ESTABLISHED 1963 **ATOL 1463**

VFB Holidays (IND)
Cheltenham GL50 3FB

PAY BACK
CORSICA
Hotels & Self-catering

01 242
240 310

VFB ESTABLISHED 1963 **ATOL 1463**

VFB Holidays (IND)
Cheltenham GL50 3FB

SELF CATERING
ACTIVITIES
for all in the
French Alps

Brochure Line
01 242
240 310

VFB ESTABLISHED 1963 **ATOL 1463**

VFB Holidays (IND)
Cheltenham GL50 3FB

France

TAKE A
NEW LOOK AT
OUR FRANCE
& SPAIN

**FAMILY
HOLIDAYS
FROM £195
PER WEEK**

**Brittany Ferries
Holidays**

**CAMPING
& LUXURY MOBILE
HOME HOLIDAYS**

SELF-DRIVE HOLIDAYS IN FRANCE & SPAIN

PERFECT
FAMILY
HOLIDAYS
PERFECT
COUNTRIES
PERFECT
CLIMATE
PERFECT
COST
PERFECT
ON SHIP FOOD
ON SHIP POOL

Eurocamp

An outstanding choice of the very best camping and luxury mobile home holidays. Great value and perfect for families. Under 18s stay free.

REACH US BY PHONE: **0990 143 552**
RESERVATIONS: **0990 360 360**
OR SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

**Brittany Ferries
Holidays**

FRENCH
holidays direct

- Book direct with over 1700 private owners
- All types of holiday property, many with pools
- All regions of France
- City Breaks

Chez Nous '97
Tel: 01484 682503
<http://www.cheznous.com>



Bouthill
Quality Villas &
Character Farmhouses
all over France
01489 878612
Swanmore, Sutton, GU26 2GN

S.W. France. Quality villas & cottages, many with pools. Countryside - nr beaches, Francophile - Bonded. 015394 31590

LOT. Beautiful newly converted barn full of light exciting spaces, lovely furniture, paintings, all mod cons, 2 able bdrms en suite bathrooms. Solar heated pool. In Quercy forest, ideal location for touring, cycling, walking or indulgence. Tel 00335 8531 5908 daytime of Lucoq 01344 427436 evenings.

NORMANDY. Peacocks country cottage. Unspoilt, relaxing. Slps 5-7. 01323 855838



France

**THE FINEST CAMPING &
MOBILE HOME HOLIDAYS IN
EUROPE - FROM £304*.**

Value 98 sites with pools, waterchutes, bars and restaurants just like a hotel.

Quality Our own exclusive mobile homes and spacious 4-bedroom Superettes.

Value Saw over £100 with our special P&O ferry offer plus a £50 on-board voucher.

Call today for a brochure.

0181 395 8565

24 hours • Please quote P15

KEYCAMP
Holidays

* £104 per person for 14 nights, 2 adults and up to 2 children (maximum 24kg Max, including 1 on the cot/crib maximum).

CYCLING
or
WALKING
Hotel to Hotel Tours, with
luggage carried or single
centre holidays.
01892 890 885
BELLE FRANCE
ATOL 2032

PROVIDENCE AREA, detached single
Sts. 4. Vardon Gorge/Lac St. Louis
Great. Seasonal swimming/hiking
area. Great view! Call 035-511-0000
01832 710227.

BRITITANY, Dordogne, Coe d'Azu
and more. Lovely villa, many well
pools. Sunbaked villas. ABT
01743 707 0700

BRITITANY, AUDIERNE Restora
rural stone cottage, well
equipped, secluded garden, stone
S, beach swim. 01743 252705

CYCLE TOURING in Britain from
anywhere. Free. 01793 503799

SW FRANCE. Super houses in lovely
setting, 5 bedrooms & 3 baths
large pool & lake. Stages 10, 20
01722 655 000

LOT ET GARONNE, well equipped
barn studio. Sts 4, terrace, pool
views, good markets, wineries
Options gourmet meals, photo
graphy tuition. Tel 010 33 55 39
0590

DORDOGNE - secluded farmhouse
fully modernized, in heart of

SW FRANCE, Pénasas, 6 France - Lovely
well-sected, 4000 sq. ft. family house
with 2000 sq. ft. pretty village, 120m sandy
beach, slips & cat, historical, swimming
sporty/relaxing area. From
230000. Tel. (0171) 8859675.

SEVENNES. Architect's kitchen
reside cottage for 2/3. 0171 488
9673.

SW FRANCE Farmhouses with
pools. Tansal at Gardone & La
Beyn. 01954 281431. AUTO A&T

SW FRANCE, Charente: 17c farm
house, with private pool, in rural
unspect countryside, slip, all
amenities, slips 9, available
June/July/Aug. Tel 048570032
54857495 Fax 0033 0458570032

France



**CAMPING &
HOLIDAYS IN
FROM £304***

tools, waterchutes, bars
just like a hotel.

ative mobile homes- and
room Superintents.

with our special P&O
a £50 on-board voucher.

KEYCAMP
Holidays

* 2 adults and up to 4 children dependent
on holiday season.

3,029 n
to dis
unspoil

Discover France in a
on an ordinary holiday
discovery on foot, by
your bags moved for y
regions.

You'll stay in comb
with fine regional food
splendours for which
along your walk, wh
appealing little comm
discover tucked away
by the world's great
little-known local di
world's finest cuisines,
and cranies of sleep
And you'll see a wide
birds and butterflies
possible. It you like
3,029 new ways
Ring now for your 199

HEADWA

01606

DISCOVER...
FRANCE

Luxury Mobile Home Holidays
in beautiful Brittany & Western France

**** 4 CHILDREN TRAVEL FREE ****

MATTHEWS HOLIDAYS
Blisphomead Parade, East Honsley, Sunley K124 6RP
Telephone: 01483 284044 ASTA V2927



Greek Islands Club
Villa and hotel holidays for those who expect privacy, comfort, personal service and beautiful surroundings. For a brochure telephone:
01932 220477
<http://www.vch.co.uk/villas>
Villa Centre Holidays Ltd
Astra V3953 ATOL 848 AFIO

Crete for the Discerning Traveler

SIMPLY *Crete*

Escape the mainstream and experience the real Crete, an island of stunning landscapes and warm hospitality. We offer restored country cottages, villas with private pools, quality apartments, and family-run hotels, all in unspoiled locations. Plus Island Wanderer and Special Interest Holidays.

0181 995 9323


AFPA V1327 AFPA 1423 AFPA

3,029 new ways to discover unspoilt France

Discover France in a way that you never could on an ordinary holiday. Take a voyage of discovery on foot, by bike, or by canoe (with your bags moved for you) through idyllic French regions.

You'll stay in comfortable traditional hotels, with fine regional food and wines. You'll see the splendours for which France is famous. But along your path, we'll help you find the appealing little corners tourists miss. You can discover tucked away landscapes immortalised by the world's greatest artists, taste the little-known local dishes that inspired the world's finest cuisines, and poke into the nooks and crannies of sleepy hill-timbered villages. And you'll see a wider variety of wild flowers, birds and butterflies than you ever thought possible. It you like France, you'll love our 3,029 new ways of discovering it.

Ring now for your 1997 colour brochure.


HEADWATER 
ATOL 2412

01606 48699

**...
E**
the Holidays
& Western France
IN TRAVEL FREE **
S HOLIDAYS
East Horsley, Surrey KT24 6RP
03 284044 ABTA V2927

reece

**Which UNspoilt
GREEK ISLAND**

LURES the white shores of Greece
Unspoilt, lovely covey
unwashed beaches. Unique
Tilos, Rhodes, brand, views
The island where time stands still
KALYNDROS The Sponge Patches
Lives, very lively & Greek
LEROSS Discover rolling hills,
Lefkada, the island of the
HAIJO Glee the magical charm
of a peaceful & truly unspoilt island
Lefkada, the island of the
Unusually beautiful
ALONNISOSS Lofos beautiful
settles on a rocky island
Sifnos Pine cone secluded
Sifnos Pine cone secluded
STYRI Unwind, unspoilt,
SKOPELOS Stunning variety
scenery, good beaches, friendly
IT'S ALL IN OUR HANDS
Call 0129 824 881
LASKARINA 100% L.A.S.K.A.R.I.N.A.
ATO  **Heritages**
The Specialist World Holidays to Greece

**SKIATHOS, Psaron, Skopelos,
Monastiraki, Mykonos, Paros, Sa-
ros, Santorini, Spinalonga, Syros**
apts & hotels, most with sea
views. Export & Import services
from Skianthos Travel Ltd, now the
only travel agent in each island.
AOL 1600.

France

EuroSites

**FOR
THE BEST
SELF-DRIVE CAMPING
AND MOBILE HOME
HOLIDAYS IN EUROPE**

... Choose EuroSites ...

Prices start from **£95*** for 7 nights and **£115*** for 14 nights, in a tent for up to six people.

JUST LOOK WHAT EUROSITES CAN OFFER YOU:

- ☒ 111 of Europe's top quality campsites across Europe
- ☒ Spacious tents & luxury well appointed mobile homes
- ☒ Single and Multi-Centre holidays in Eight European Countries including France, Italy and Spain
- ☒ Fully trained EuroSites representatives on every site

**FOR
A COPY
OF OUR FREE
MAIN BROCHURE CALL**

0990 134 748

EURO SITES
BY COUNCILS OF EUROPEAN TRAVEL AGENTS

EuroSites is a member of the Alliance Traveling Ltd, who are recognised for Alliance 94, 94/95, 95/96. *Price applies to selected non-summer months running 1994 April 1997. (Excludes France) -

ANCE

CLOSER TO FRANCE.
Châteaux in the Loire, cottages
and holiday houses of quality
and Corsica. Many with pool.

PROCHURE
31 QUOTE REF: F103
Campagne,
rough.

1771
11 1030
11 1030
11 1030



Greece

Paros, Corfu, Lefkas, Megaloni,
Ithaca, Cephalonia, Zakynthos

SIMPLY
Tonian

Quintessentially Greek
holidays away from the
mainstream. And offer private
villas with pools, hotels and
seaside cottages in beautiful
outspout locations, plus
specialist painting, walking
and flower holidays.

0181 995 9323
AND VISIT www.greeceand

LEFKADA: Ever inspiring Greek location island. Superb quality local wine villas with pool. Trnd. houses, appts, stude. AETA. ATOL. ATOL. Brochure Tel 01580 765000.

SKYROS Holistic Holidays in Greece & Caribbean. Over 20 courses led by excellent tutors. Incl. Ken Russell, Sue Townsend & Toyah Wilcox. Superb setting, friendly community, del. food. 0171 294 3065.

GRECOFILE/ FILOXENIA For the discerning, truly, quieter Greece. 014222 375999. ATOL 2917 ATOL

ites

**FOR
THE BEST
E/CAMPING
MOBILE HOMES
IN EUROPE**

EuroSites...

\$' for 7 nights and £115'

nt for up to six people.

ROSITES CAN OFFER YOU:

- fully equipped mobile homes
- well appointed mobile homes
- holidays in Eight
- cluding

**FOR
A COPY
OF OUR FREE
MAIN BROCHURE CALL**


90 134 748

TO EUROPEAN TRAVEL AGENCIES

* prices include full board catering for all persons staying
from 1st April - 30th September 1997. Maximum 6 persons per unit.
Unit price varies according to season. Minimum stay 7 nights.


**CYCLING
FOR
SOFTIES**

**A unique view of
rural France from a
bicycle. Quality
accommodation.
Meals to remember**



0161 248 5166

Retrol Agent ATOL 606


 And the season-quality holidays is lower business costs.
SPECIALIST REECE
 Including direct to customers & licensees,
 flexible maintained Fly Drive,
 extensive service & repairs,
 painting, painting and selling
 0181-847-4748
 210000

Italy

IDYLIC ITALY

...the country's most beautiful
coasts and the most beautiful
...the country's most beautiful
coasts and the most beautiful
...the country's most beautiful
coasts and the most beautiful

**BORGOMASTRO
TOSCANA**

...the country's most beautiful
coasts and the most beautiful
...the country's most beautiful
coasts and the most beautiful

0161 707 8795

Take Off Take Off Take Off

Because we think the world of you ...

current best buys on the world's finest airlines

| (one way) | one way | one way | one way | one way | one way |
|-----------|---------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|
| SYDNEY | £354 | £529 | NEW YORK | £122 | £159 |
| PERTH | £325 | £509 | BOSTON | £139 | £179 |
| CAIRNS | £354 | £539 | FLORIDA | £159 | £199 |
| AUCKLAND | £354 | £539 | LOS ANGELES | £217 | £253 |
| BANGKOK | £238 | £396 | SAN FRANCISCO | £217 | £253 |
| HONG KONG | £242 | £399 | DENVER | £256 | £296 |
| SINGAPORE | £242 | £399 | TORONTO | £138 | £229 |
| BALI | £308 | £495 | VANCOUVER | £258 | £319 |
| MANILA | £274 | £451 | CARIBBEAN | £175 | £276 |
| SAIGON | £308 | £501 | MEXICO CITY | £248 | £286 |
| | | | AROUND THE WORLD | £277 | |

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from

AUSTRALIA £36 • USA £31 • AFRICA £37 • PACIFIC £42 • ASIA £30

USA CAR HIRE FROM £12 PER DAY • CALL NOW FOR OUR WORLD OR NORTH AMERICA DIRECTORY ON 0171-938 3366

TRAILFINDERS THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS TO QUEENSLAND FROM £588 RETURN AND RECEIVE DISCOUNTS OF UP TO AUS \$50 IN AUSTRALIA

HOTELS • CAR HIRE • TRAVEL INSURANCE • TOURS • CRUISES • WEDDING TRAVEL

For the real lowdown on worldwide travel, Trailfinders is your one stop travel shop. Trailfinders offers more low cost flights to more destinations than anyone. Experts in airfares since 1970, we can tailor-make your very own package with up to 65% discount on hotels and car hire worldwide.

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE CALL 0171-938 3366 ANYTIME

ATOL 1458 IATA ABTA 69701

worldwide attention to detail

194 Kensington High Street • LONDON W8 7RG
Long Haul Flights: 0171-938 3399
First & Business Class • LONDON W8 6BD
215 Kensington High Street • LONDON W8 6BT
Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400
Long Haul Flights: 0171-938 3366
42-50 Ears Court Road • BIRMINGHAM B4 6BS
Worldwide Flights: 0121-236 1234
22-24 The Priory Queensway • BIRMINGHAM B4 6BS
Worldwide Flights: 0117-929 9000
48 Corn Street • BRISTOL BS1 1HQ
Worldwide Flights: 0117-929 9000
254-284 Sauchiehall Street • GLASGOW G2 3EH
Worldwide Flights: 0141-353 2224
58 Deansgate • MANCHESTER M3 2FF
Worldwide Flights: 0161-839 8969
First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

... people think the world of us!

FLIGHTBOOKERS

AMERICAS & EUROPE 0171 757 2000
WORLDWIDE 0171 757 2444
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND 0171 757 2468
FIRST & BUSINESS CLASS 0171 757 2500
OPEN 7 DAYS ATOL 2562 IATA ABTA D0806/V8800

GUARANTEED LOWEST AIRFARES ON SCHEDULED AIRLINES
All fares are return flights, subject to availability, seasonal & regional supplements, c.c. surcharges & taxes where applicable.

ALSO AT GATWICK 01293 568 300 BROCHURE HOTLINE 0990 134912
Best Value - Air Fares - Car Hire - Hotels - Travel Insurance

travelling freestyle

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|------|--------------|------|------------|------|-----------|------|
| New York | £170 | S. Francisco | £255 | Sydney | £570 | Beijing | £299 |
| Boston | £179 | Honolulu | £445 | N. Zealand | £650 | Jo'burg | £410 |
| Chicago | £245 | Toronto | £219 | Hong Kong | £454 | Nairobi | £329 |
| Washington | £179 | Rio | £339 | Bangkok | £439 | Dubai | £285 |
| Denver | £255 | Mexico | £285 | Singapore | £415 | Amsterdam | £69 |

Florida Fly-Drive from £199 inc. 1 week FREE car hire

Travel as many times as you like from £59 a year.
With our annual travel insurance you can take an unlimited number of trips. To enrol, call between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday quoting reference IQ14.
0800 700 737
Insurance Services

Australia New Zealand

Top scheduled airlines.
Best stopover choice - Far East, USA & more.
Itineraries tailored to your exact wishes.
Car & campervan hire, air, rail & coach passes.
Accommodation from budget to luxury.

AUSTRALIA FARES FROM £512 RETURN
NEW ZEALAND FARES FROM £653 RETURN

Also ask about our new Qantas & British Airways fares

01420-88724 or 0171-287 5556

TRAVELBAG
OFFICIALLY APPOINTED QANTAS AGENT

Open 7 days 12 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1BN
Sun-Sun 9am-5pm
Sun-Sun 10am-4pm 52 Regent Street, London, W1R 6DX
FAX: 01420-82133 or 0171-287 4522
All fares subject to availability. Restrictions apply, ask for details.

STA TRAVEL
WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------|---------------|------|------------|------|-----------|------|
| Paris | £95 | Rome | £132 | Mexico | £335 | Singapore | £414 |
| Amsterdam | £57 | Cairo | £238 | Hong Kong | £339 | Hong Kong | £339 |
| Geneva | £39 | Washington | £158 | N. Zealand | £650 | Jo'burg | £410 |
| Adelaide | £39 | San Francisco | £219 | Hong Kong | £454 | Nairobi | £329 |
| Barcelona | £108 | Toronto | £219 | Bangkok | £439 | Dubai | £285 |

ROUND THE WORLD: FROM £668

VIRGIN ATLANTIC SPECIALS
New York & Boston: £158 • Los Angeles: £219

EUROPE: 0171 361 6161, WORLDWIDE: 0171 361 6162, 0161 834 0668 (Manchester)
ACCOMMODATION • CAR HIRE • INSURANCE AND OVERLAND TOURS: 0171 361 6160
111 Euston Road NW1, 86 Old Broad Street SW7, 11 Gower St W1, London.
STA TRAVEL INFORMATION REQUEST LINE: 0171 361 6161

QUEST WORLDWIDE
Flights Worldwide from Around the World

| | | | |
|--------------|------|-----------------|------|
| SYDNEY | £44 | DELHI | £339 |
| PERTH | £44 | HONG KONG | £339 |
| AUCKLAND | £44 | BANGKOK | £339 |
| NAIROBI | £339 | SINGAPORE | £339 |
| HARARE | £339 | JOHANNESBURG | £339 |
| JOHANNESBURG | £339 | LAKE TANGANYIKA | £339 |
| DUBAI | £339 | LAKE TANGANYIKA | £339 |

SPECIAL BUSINESS CLASSES
0171-361 6161 0161-834 0668

GOING TO ARGENTINA?
Nobody covers the country like AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS.
With 3 direct flights weekly from Heathrow, connections via Madrid on all other days, and an extensive network of flights within Argentina, you cannot choose a better airline. Enjoy South American hospitality the moment you leave Heathrow.
Why wait until you get there?
AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS
YOUR NATURAL CHOICE TO ARGENTINA
Contact your Travel Agent or call 0171 484 1001
84 Conduit Street, London W1S 8PD

TECNO TRAVEL
DAILY DEPARTURE SPECIALS IN JAN & FEB
NEW YORK £373 S. FRISCO £275 BOSTON £179 DELHI £330
L. ANGELES £275 TORONTO £219 BOMBAY £230 KLUMPUR £449
DAILY NON-STOP TO DELHI £449
COMPETITIVE FARES TO ALL WORLDWIDE & EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS
For friendly, efficient service call
0171 482 0414

in touch with Campus travel
We specialise in low cost travel for students and young people providing support in over 150 offices throughout the world.

TELEPHONE BOOKINGS
LONDON - OPEN 7 DAYS
WORLDWIDE 0171 730 8111
EUROPE 0171 730 3402
NORTH AMERICA 0171 730 2101
BRISTOL 0117 925 2494
EDINBURGH 0131 658 3312
MANCHESTER 0161 273 1721
GLASGOW 0141 533 1818

44 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE
OPEN 7 DAYS 10am-5pm
24-26 Jan at Royal Horticultural Halls, London

Campus travel
www.campustravel.co.uk

USA AND CANADA

| | | | |
|---------------|------|-----------|------|
| New York | £167 | Toronto | £169 |
| Boston | £170 | Halifax | £175 |
| Washington | £195 | Montreal | £175 |
| Baltimore | £189 | Vancouver | £263 |
| Miami | £200 | | |
| Philadelphia | £205 | | |
| Chicago | £230 | | |
| Dallas | £230 | | |
| Las Vegas | £236 | | |
| Atlanta | £236 | | |
| San Francisco | £236 | | |
| New Orleans | £236 | | |

Eclipse DIRECT
0990 329 326
Lines Open: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat 8am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm.
All fares are low season return flights, subject to availability and exclude airport taxes.
First Class Holidays & Flights Ltd. ATOL 15494, REGD. 230 1624

EDINBURGH GLASGOW
FROM £59 RTN

You'd have to look hard to find a smaller fare.

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| AMSTERDAM | from £69 return |
| BERGEM | from £59 return |
| BERGEN | from £145 return |
| BRUSSELS | from £74 return |
| DUBLIN | from £69 return |
| FRANKFURT | from £99 return |
| LEEDS BRADFORD | from £83 return |
| NICE | from £149 return |
| PALMA | from £119 return |
| PARIS | from £75 return |
| PRAGUE | from £164 return |
| TEESIDE | from £93 return |
| ZURICH | from £99 return |

Returns fares from London Heathrow.

Contact your local travel agent or call for details on
0345 554554 OR 0345 1 FLY BM

British Midland
The Airline for Europe

Don't pay too much for your travel insurance

Call **0171-375 0011**
COLUMBUS DIRECT
24hr Medical Helpline
0171-209 4000

FARESAVERS
MALAGA £39 GREECE £44
Alicante £39 Turkey £109
Pamplona £39 Israel £109
Tenerife £39 Malta £109
Las Palmas £39 Cyprus £109
Lancaster £39 Italy £109
Belfast £39 Caribbean £109
Full Europe Worldwide Flights
Also Car Hire/Insurance
01476 578913

Capital Flights
OPEN DAILY 11am-5pm
MALAGA £39 Turkey £109
Alicante £39 Cyprus £109
Pamplona £39 Israel £109
Tenerife £39 Malta £109
Las Palmas £39 Cyprus £109
Lancaster £39 Italy £109
Belfast £39 Caribbean £109
Full Europe Worldwide Flights
Also Car Hire/Insurance
0171-209 4000

FLIGHTSEATS
Alcantara £290 Dusseldorf £290
Madrid £290 Dusseldorf £290
Paris £290 Dusseldorf £290
Pamplona £290 Dusseldorf £290
Tenerife £290 Dusseldorf £290
Las Palmas £290 Dusseldorf £290
Lancaster £290 Dusseldorf £290
Belfast £290 Dusseldorf £290
Full Europe Worldwide Flights
Also Car Hire/Insurance
01476 578913

EMBASSY FLIGHT CENTRAL
ALICANTE £199 Dusseldorf £199
MALAGA £199 Dusseldorf £199
PAMPLONA £199 Dusseldorf £199
TENERIFE £199 Dusseldorf £199
LAS PALMAS £199 Dusseldorf £199
LANCASTER £199 Dusseldorf £199
BELFAST £199 Dusseldorf £199
Full Europe Worldwide Flights
Also Car Hire/Insurance
01273 700737

apple for the Student!
12-24 hours or Full Time Students
to London from £12.95 & Worldwide
in last 12 months from 12-24 hours
around the world & back flying home
to your home country
01225 447474
APPLE WORLD TRAVEL
01225 447474

JETLINE
Discounted fares to all destinations
SKIN 1-49 USA 1-163
PORTUGAL 79 CARIBBEAN 185
ISRAEL 49 AFRICA 183
GREECE 99 CANADA 179
TURKEY 149 INDIA 295
CYPRUS 149 JAPAN 239
MALAYSIA 149 AUSTRALIA 349
New Zealand 349 & more
0171 360 1111

USA & CANADA East Coast Glory
The Complete Escorted Tour Experience With Our VIP Local Departure Service Offered Free From Over 1100 UK Points On All Dates!
Now booking through October 1996 to October 1997.

of the maple, mountain ash, red oak and scarlet sassafras, among many other wonderful trees and flowering plants of abundant wildlife and moose-inhabited forests. North America's Eastern Region is a glory largely undiscovered by the casual visitor. Titan's unrivalled 20 year's experience of organising tours to the region takes our clients into the beguiling byways to out-of-the-way villages and true gems of American rural life. Naturally the 'big name' attractions are included in our tours, from Niagara to Boston, but our more leisurely pace and routings provide an entirely different quality experience. And you can be sure that when we visit New York city you will stay at a hotel in midtown Manhattan, where the big attractions, such as Fifth Avenue, Rockefeller Centre, Central Park, Times Square, Grand Central Station and Radio City Music Hall are all literally within strolling distance. The difference is the detail - never more evident than in the East, when we invite you to visit America's 'secret garden'.

EASTERN EXTRAVAGANZA
15 days from £995*

- Stay in three of Canada's most fascinating cities - Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.
- In Niagara experience the wonder of the Falls.
- Stay in New York, enjoy a city tour and take your own bikes of the Big Apple.
- Discover the elegance of Boston, Philadelphia and Washington.
- Travel the Freedom Road to Lexington where the first shot of the War of Independence was fired.
- Journey through the heartland of New England, lovely in its spring and fall colours.
- Relax in the cities and bays of Newport, Rhode Island and visit the spot where the Mayflower landed.

EASTERN PANORAMA
14 days from £1075*

- Stay at the fine Le Châtelier hotel in the beautiful Laurentian Mountains.
- Visit the Eastern Townships, glorious in their spring & fall colours.
- Explore the Charlevoix coastline with a chance to see whales at close quarters on an included lunch-cruise.
- Stroll through the farming community of Sherbrooke.
- Living museum where traditional costume is still worn, food prepared the old way and sheep still cut the grass.
- Stay in Boston & discover the Freedom Trail.
- Visit Deerfield where buildings have been preserved and lived in since the 18th century.

NEW ENGLAND HIGHLIGHTS
10 days from £875*

- Breakfasting journey through Green Mountain National Forest to the historic surroundings of 18th century Woodstock.
- Two nights in fabulous New York to enjoy all the 'Big Apple' has to offer.
- Explore Newport with its millionaires' mansions and Stockbridge with its famous Red Lion Inn.
- Exploration of Harvard University's delightful location at Cambridge.
- Tour of Boston with time to make your own discoveries.
- Included visits and admissions to the romantic waterfront recreation of Mystic Seaport and Shubert's 18th century working village community.

CHARM OF NEW ENGLAND
10 days from £845*

- Stroll through the farming community of Sherbrooke.
- Living museum where traditional costume is still worn, food prepared the old way and sheep still cut the grass.
- Stay in Boston & discover the Freedom Trail.
- Visit Deerfield where buildings have been preserved and lived in since the 18th century.
- Relax in the cities and bays of Newport, Rhode Island, one of the world's most fashionable yachting centres.

MAPLE LEAF TRAIL PLUS NIAGARA FALLS
11 days from £945*

- Follow the trail of the greatest concentration of Maple Groves in North America.
- Exploration of the Eastern Townships including North Hatley, Megaw, Austin, Bolton, Knowlton and the lovely lakeside villages of Lake Megaw.
- Two nights in a luxurious central Ontario hotel with a visit to Niagara Falls.
- Time to explore the charming environs of Quebec City, with its old walls and fascinating jumble of cobbled streets and leafy squares.
- Away from it all stay in the Laurentians at the beautiful resort of Sainte Adèle.
- Journey along the stunning Charlevoix coastline with an included whale watching cruise in the St. Lawrence River.

Our Service Makes a World of Difference!

RELAX FROM THE START WITH OUR UNIQUE FREE VIP LOCAL DEPARTURE SERVICE
Enjoy the luxury of our highly trained uniformed chauffeurs driving to your departure airport in our superb modern vehicles. Because they seat a maximum of eight passengers in air-con comfort, your direct route involves a minimum of stops. You can sit back, your luggage taken care of, and rest to enjoy your holiday knowing the Titan team of airport staff will be there to greet you.

OR CHOOSE OUR SHUTTLE SERVICE
As an alternative to our local departure service we are pleased to be able to offer connecting flights from Jersey, Guernsey, Belfast, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness, Newcastle, Plymouth, Newquay & Manchester.

OUR AIRPORT SERVICE - Our airport staff are at the London terminals to assist with all check-in arrangements and direct you to Titan transport on your return. We usually have our own check-in desk for maximum speed and efficiency.

TOP SCHEDULED AIRLINES - We use only scheduled flights with the world's leading airlines.

OUR HOTELS - Among the best for location & comfort.

OUR TOUR MANAGERS - Friendly, informative and on call 24 hours a day for your complete peace of mind.

OUR COACHES - Comfortable air conditioned coaching throughout.

OUR ITINERARIES - Created by us with British tastes in mind (no multi-lingual commentaries) including in the price all major attractions and sightseeing tours.

Titan Hitours

To receive your brochure & details of how to book please call us or return the coupon below.
Please send information on the following tours: (Please tick)
Eastern Extravaganza ☐ Eastern Panorama ☐ New England Highlights ☐ Maple Leaf Trail ☐
Charm of New England ☐ Australasia ☐ South Africa ☐ Year of Travel - 1996 ☐ 1997 ☐
Name _____ Address _____
Titan Travel Ltd., Hitours House, 26-30 Holmehorpe Avenue, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 2NL
Postcode _____

01737 760033

01702 3329

HOW TO ORDER
01702 3329
01702 3329

Like Butlins for the intelligentsia

A campus holiday for £7 a night, complete with airport lounge. By Simon Calder

Had the Trade Descriptions Act been in force in the early Sixties, the fledgling college might never have got away with its chosen name: that of an ancient castle town. Certainly the planners' choice sounds more enticing than the two alternatives: it could have become the University of the West Midlands or - perhaps worse, but certainly absolutely accurate - Coventry. Whether you want to enrol here as a student, or merely wish to visit the epitome of campus-academia-as-tourist-attraction, there is one thing you should know: Warwick University is nowhere near Warwick.

Fifty years ago, when Coventry comprised more than a collection of post-war concrete bunkers, the *AA Road Book* described the elm-bordered highway between Kenilworth and Coventry as "the most beautiful road in Britain". When, 32 years ago, the first students rolled up in sensible Morris Minors and flashy Triumph Herald, they steered towards a muddy field on Gibbet Hill Road, adjacent to this graceful avenue. Today, sightseers can trudge through a fresh coating of mud - building began in 1964 and has carried on continuously ever since - and see where the white heat of technology met the redbrick idealism of the Sixties.

At the original site you will find a red brick; this material did not arrive at the university until the late Seventies. But at the very first corner of the glum, green-and-grey concrete rectangle that made up the infant university, you happen upon a time capsule of higher education.

Walnut-effect plywood chairs sit stiffly on a thin carpet that is defiantly plain, except where the threads have been bare. Teak veneer has attached itself to any plausible flat surface but is now peeling away. The biggest chronological giveaway, though, is the tape recorder. Like *Marek* and *Mark* Two Ford Cortinas, the Akai 4000 was big in the late Sixties. Now, forlornly, the last known survivor of the reel-to-reel age perches on an inevitably teak shelf, its performance long overtaken by digital technology.

Considering most of it falls within the confines of the city of Coventry, much of Warwick University is startlingly attractive. Since its foundation on farmland in an obscure corner just inside the city limits, the campus has oozed down a gracefully wooded hillside to a mirrored brace of lakes. No trace remains of an arrow-straight concrete track that, for a couple of decades, lay across a plain meadow. In the Sixties, the literal way forward was the magnetically levitated train - and the edge of technology went cutting through Warwick's campus, courtesy of the engineering faculty.

The Maglev idea moved elsewhere (and is currently being installed, for real, between Berlin and Hamburg). To replace the track, in 1991 the university created a matching pair of artificial lakes. This move does not represent an aesthetic victory by the art department over engineering; it reflects the fact that university managements, these market-oriented days, are more concerned with what goes on during the vacation than in term time. Conference bookings provide the funds that have kept Warwick expanding, from 300 students to 1965 to 14,000 today. Holiday-makers are welcome, too: this summer, a week of self-catering accommodation works out less than £7 per person per night. But you could find yourself sharing the campus with the Rugby Football Union.

Goodness knows what these officials will make of the centrais of post-war Britain scattered across the campus. Rising like the mist from the gossiping geese at the lakeside, you bump into a scarlet metal sculpture that is pure Sixties. Like a third-year theatre studies student, the structure preens self-obsessively above a spartan swathe of paving. The space between endless ranks of halls of residence was, no doubt, ideal for Sixties "be-ins" but is no use for the Nineties new, soccer-playing, men-

have you ever tried to keep goal in an impromptu game of football when one of the posts is an avant-garde question mark in half-inch steel plate?

The official motto of Warwick University is *Mens agitat molem* (roughly, mind influences matter), but a much better way to sum up the glorious collision of architectural fads would be "It seemed like a good idea at the time". Stark Seventies, represented by the bare breeze block Union Building, mingles uncomfortably with Eighties extravagance and Nineties anonymity. The Sixties, meanwhile, are presently mulling the changes over a pint of M&B mild in the Airport Lounge.

What? The Airport Lounge, a precise copy (it is alleged) of the departures hall at Birmingham airport. When the first social buildings were planned in the late Sixties, airports (even small, regional ones such as Elmdon, a dozen miles down the A45) were surfing the crests of stylistic superiority. So a go-ahead university had to have, as its main bar, an airport departure lounge.

Check in here for a journey through time, as defined by the bands that have played at Warwick. Upstairs in the examinations hall of the Rostes Building, Gary glittered while the Rubettes faded out. Across at the Westwood Site lie the origins of a legend that still circulates among university entertainments officers: at precisely the moment punk was conceived, the story goes, someone booked the Damned to support the Tremeloes. Silence was far from golden that night.

Some things never change, as witnessed by the poster in the library last week that pleaded "chromosome crisis: boys need girls for their Earlsdon house, £25 per week" (it was not clear who was to pay whom). And the wistful visitor these days may take comfort from the fact that the prevailing dog-end in the university ashtrays is still a grizzled end of roll-up, and that graffiti in the gents have not moved on: "How many Man [age-ment] Sci [ence] graduates does it take to change a lightbulb? Two: one to mix the drinks, the other to phone the electrician."

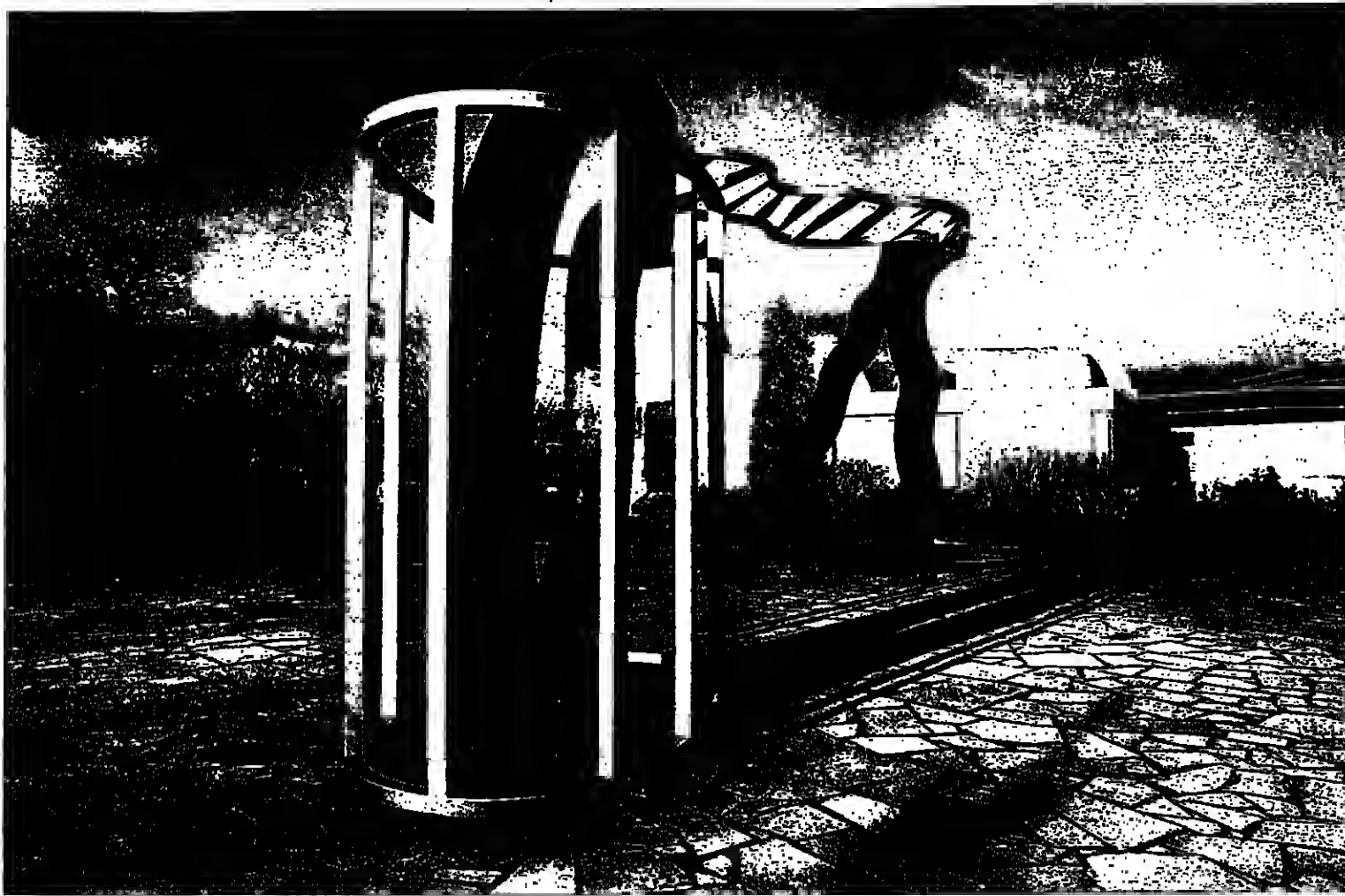
As a holiday camp for normal people as well as students, Warwick is ideal. Tourists keen to keep costs down will also be relieved that the price of an industrial-sized pizza from Airfare, next to the Lounge, is just £4, since students (and approximations thereto) need not pay VAT. Similar subsidies apply to the spectacularly well-blessed arts colony at Warwick: the red-and-breeze-block Arts Centre recently won £3m of lottery cash to upgrade itself. This, you may conclude if tempted by that £7-a-night offer, is like Butlins for the intelligentsia.

True, the seaside is a hundred miles in any direction; the University Seaside Society flourished in the Seventies solely by offering cut-price trips to Skegness. But, so long as you don't want to go to Warwick Castle, the surroundings comprise Britain at her most seductively picturesque.

So the undergraduate at Warwick who is about to receive a weekend visitor from home has a solution to the problem that he or she inhabits a heritage-free community. Fortunately, half the history of England - together with her finest castle - lies just down the road.

The road in question is the AA's favourite, the A429. It leads to a grand castle. But this medieval masterpiece is Kenilworth, not Warwick. Students of English or history will already be turning their back pages to find Sir Walter Scott's account of Kenilworth as they stride past the Queen and Castle (whose garden benches have, before now, been produced as evidence in unsuccessful prosecutions against skylarking Warwick students).

Instead of Scott's "gigantic porter... appropriately armed with a heavy club spiked with steel", a couple of polite English Heritage ladies guard the gates these days. But there is no mistaking England's finest castle. Last week, as the sun plunged into the mists that protected the water meadow, momentary blushes from the tired sand-



Pure Sixties metal sculpture is scattered across Warwick University's campus

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW SUURMAN

Students: write your way to Australia

Whether you are bounding in the mud of Warwick or lazing on the lawns at Cambridge, you could write your way to a more exotic university city. BT Chargecard and the *Independent* have joined forces with Rough Guides and Campus Travel to concoct the best-ever student travel writing competition.

To enter, you need not venture any further than your own municipality, because the task is to write a Rough Guide-style account, in no more than 500 words, of the town or city where you study. Send these to the address below, and you are in the running for one of five big prizes:

1. Travel by Eurostar to Paris, and cross to the Sorbonne on the Left Bank (plus £750 spending money).
2. Fly to Bologna, venue for one of the most ancient universities in Europe (plus £750 spending money).
3. Take a trip to Harvard, just across the river from the New England city of Boston (plus £1,000 spending money).
4. Wander over to the West Coast, and bowl up at Berkeley, on the San Francisco bay (plus £1,000 spending money).
5. Surfer's Paradise may sound like an implausible place to graduate, but study's up at Bond University on the Queensland coast of Australia (plus £1,300 spending money).

For guidance on styling your story, BT has set up a special helpline which you can call - at local rates - to hear top tips from Rough Guide writers. Just dial 0345 345004; if you are using a payphone, then you will find it cheaper to make the call with a BT Chargecard than by using cash. Call the freephone number on 0800 345144 to sign up - this is a free call.

Your account, which needs to be accurate and pithy, should be sent to: Write Your Way Around The World, Rough Guides, 1 Mercer Street, London WC2H 9QT, to arrive by 1 March. The results will be announced just before Easter. Ten runners-up will each receive the *Rough Guide to Britain*. The winners may be commissioned to work on an assignment for Rough Guides, payable at the usual rates.

Rules

1. Only students currently registered at UK universities and colleges may apply.
2. Neither employees of Newspaper Publishing, British Telecommunications plc, Campus Travel or Rough Guides, nor their relatives, may enter.
3. Winners will be notified by post by 21 March.
4. Travel arrangements will be made by Campus Travel, and will aim to match the winner's preferred dates of travel. Please note, however, that certain dates may not be available due to heavy booking.
5. The editor's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.
6. Usual Newspaper Publishing plc rules apply.

Trouble spots

Advice for participants in the new Encounter Overland brochure (call 0171-370 6845):

"Most of the longer trips require flexibility, fitness and adaptability. Due to extreme conditions, climates and the nomadic lifestyle, we consider our projects to be best suited to people between 18 and 45."

"We do not offer advice on personal equipment such as cameras and videos. Take into account the conditions experienced on the projects. Your equipment will invariably be subjected to extreme conditions, and high-tech electronic equipment cannot be repaired en route."

"Encounter provides individual mosquito nets on all truck projects, but you should come supplied with good insect repellent and suitable clothing."

"Delays can happen in the course of a journey anywhere in the world. On Overland Adventures, Encounter forewarns all travellers not to make unchangeable plans for seven to 10 days after the end of the journey."

"Occasional political conflicts, border closures or route diversions may result in the total closure of our intended route... we may employ alternative transport such as flights, shipping, extra vehicles... possibly local services."

Bargain of the week

Birmingham or London to Delhi (right) in some comfort. The Tupolev has topped off the UK-to-India schedule, which means budget travellers can travel to the Indian capital with more comfort and confidence. Turkmenistan Airlines (0181-746 3080) has brought in a Boeing 757 to use on its flights to Delhi from Birmingham and London. The return fares are £320 and £335 respectively.

True or false

Admission to the Independent Traveller's World exhibition in London this weekend costs £5

False - take along this copy of *The Independent*, or tomorrow's *Independent on Sunday*, and you get a discount of £1. Talks include "The Peruvian rainforest, a beginner's guide" and "Trespassing in central Asia". The show takes place this weekend at the Royal Horticultural Halls near Victoria, 9.30am-6pm. Call 0117-908 3300 for more details.

The answers

... to our Christmas competition

I wish it could be Christmas every day
A spaceman came travelling
Mistletoe and wine
Merry Christmas everybody
Santa Claus is coming to town
Silent night
Last Christmas
Stop the cavalry
I was born on Christmas day
Mary's boy child
Step into Christmas
Walking in the air
Wombling merry Christmas
Lonely this Christmas
I believe in Father Christmas
Do they know it's Christmas?

Not the answers
Altogether now (the Farm hit in 1990 was spelt All Together Now). 25th December (this Everything But The Girl track was either a Christmas hit nor spelt without the "th").

something to declare

THE INDEPENDENT

Up to 18ft reach*
PRUNER & SAW
Outfit for shrubs and trees
Just £29.95 plus £2.50 p&p

Using an effortless pulley action this robust top quality surgical steel pruner cuts cleanly through 17" branches using a superior bypass slicing action. Included in the kit is a perfectly angled full length 15" saw for cutting smoothly through thicker tougher branches. Both pruner and saw clamp securely to sturdy aluminium poles, three 4ft sections supplied, (use 4ft, 8ft or 12ft) giving maximum height of 18ft (inc own height*). Packs away to 4ft for compact storage. Complete with hints on successful pruning, the kit offers exceptional value at £29.95 plus £2.50 carriage. Optional extras include a fruit picker head at just £5.95 and a window cleaner at just £5.95.

HOW TO ORDER
01702 332922
using your Credit Card or FOR FAST
ORDERS BY FAX send your details
on 01702 332922

or complete the coupon with crossed
cheques or postal orders to:
THE INDEPENDENT PRUNER & SAW
OFFER, 325 London Road,
Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex S80 7EX.
Offer available UK mainland only. Please allow
up to 28 days for delivery. You may return your
order within 7 days if not completely satisfied.
This does not affect your statutory rights.
Newspaper Publishing PLC Registered in England
No. 1808067

Please send to me Pruners @ £29.95
Please send to me Fruit Pickers @ £5.95
Please send to me Window Cleaners @ £5.95
The total value of my order including £2.50 p&p is: £ .
I enclose a crossed cheque (with my Address on reverse) made payable to:
NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING INC032
Or please debit my ACCESS/ISA Card account with the sum of: £
My card number is:
Please use bank cards only
My Name is (Mr/Ms/Mrs)
Address
Postcode Signature
Send To: THE INDEPENDENT PRUNER & SAW OFFER
325 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex S80 7EX
☐ Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive future offers from NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC or
from companies approved by NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC [INC032]

ICELAND

Mind Expanding Holidays

Had enough of traffic jams and tacky beaches? Then let Iceland take your breath away! Tingling fresh air, scenery that's as awesomely spectacular as it is unique. Add a vibrant capital - Reykjavik, with its fabulous nightlife, fascinating cultural heritage and fashionable traditional crafts and you'll wonder why you never came before. With 24 hours of summer daylight you can watch the midnight sun over a giant waterfall or boogie with friendly locals at a top class night spot. All this new experience is a mere 2½ hrs from Heathrow, 2 hrs from Glasgow, and between 27 June and 29 August from Manchester too. For brochures including Iceland, ask your local travel agent or call the 24hr brochureline on 0181 295 7373 or icelandair on 0171 388 5599.

Island Brochure Unit, Unit 8, 40 Haverhill Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 8JZ
Please send me your Icelandic Holiday & Iceland Travel Board brochures INC57

Name
Address

ICELANDAIR

TEL: 0171 293 2222

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Special Interest Holidays

TREK FOR CHARITY IN MOROCCO
6 Sept - 13 Sept
£185
(Some places still available for May Trek)

UZBEKISTAN
22 Sept - 04 Oct
£185

Reach your target to obtain:
FREE - Return flights and transfers
FREE - All accommodation and meals
FREE - Professional guides
FREE - TOUR £185 ENTRY BACK IF YOU HAVE OVER £2500

The Big Event Company
01273 684840

Special Interest Holidays

EXODUS
UK leaders in small group adventure holidays worldwide, with over 20 years experience choose from 4 different brochures.

01273 684840

Special Interest Holidays

Mountain Travel Worldwide
PEAKS • TREKS • MOUNTAIN SKIING
Call now for our colour brochure
0114 275 7500

Footsteps
Follow our footsteps and join our small friendly groups walking through beautiful undiscovered areas of Italy, 1745
Tel: 0171 727 2966

The specialists in travel to BRAZIL
Tel: 0181 747 3315
Fax: 0181 747 3100
Mobile: 0161 632 1441

Special Interest Holidays

TRAVELBAG Adventures
Join a small group holiday off the beaten track...
For more information call
01420 541007
Travelbag Adventures (DIN),
15 Turk St, Alton,
Bants, GU34 1AG

ACTIVE & ADVENTUROUS JOURNEYS

The Imaginative Traveller
Brochure Line:
0181 742 3049 24hr

| Europe | Africa |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Egypt & Middle East | USA & Canada |
| South East Asia | Australia / NZ |
| India, Nepal & China | Trans Siberian |

1st Floor, 14 Barley Mow Passage, London W4 4PH

ADVENTURES
AFRICA SOUTH EAST ASIA HIMALAYA INDIA GUERBA EXPEDITIONS

5 different dedicated colour brochures featuring the best adventure holidays available from specialist tour operators

For brochures call
01373 858956
Wendy Holmes, 40 Station Rd,
Widmore, Wiltshire BA9 6JL
Paddy Holmes, 40 Station Rd,
Widmore, Wiltshire BA9 6JL

OVERLAND ADVENTURES
Asia, Africa & the Americas
2 to 37 weeks
or longer
or hotel trips
01723 861133
Dragoman
1 Camp Green, Dabernham,
Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1LA

EXPLORE
small group exploratory holidays from 1997 onwards

- Cultural Tours
- Major Treks
- River Journeys
- Tailor-made Voyages
- Nature Tours
- Wilderness Safaris
- Sea Treks

In offbeat Europe, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Middle East, Morocco, Mali, East & South Africa, China, Japan, Southeast Asia, Thailand, USA, Canada, Latin America, Australia, New Zealand & Pacific.

Over 170 unique adventures. From 8 days to 6 weeks. Prices from £339 to £3945.

Call for colour brochure
01252 344161 (p94)
http://www.explore.co.uk
Explore Worldwide (UK),
Aldershot, GU11 3LQ
Fully Bonded ATO/ATOL No. 2595

IF YOU WORK IN AN OFFICE, UNDERSTANDING MONKEY POLITICS WILL BE A DODDLE.

For more details call 01865 311600

EARTHWATCH
EVERYONE'S GOT A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE
P.O. Box 4, Church, Nr. 20107

KE
Tel: 01767 73966

Cycling & Walking Holidays
Lodges with views through beautiful scenery & the Black Forest. Hand-picked hotels. Bicycles provided. Luggage transported.
Brochure from: Route 2000
& Walking Tours (UK)
The Blue House, Olden, Ludlow,
Shropshire, SY8 4JH
Tel: 01568 780 800

Walking in Germany & Alsace
Self-guided, no groups. Bags transported. 01708 824515

Overseas Travel

Overseas Travel

Overseas Travel

City Breaks

AU REVOIR ANGLETERRE
Welcome Paris, 1 night via Eurostar from £115pp. Extra nights from £26. For a break in most European cities call us on
0181 741 4443
CITY ESCAPADES
Visit your travel agent or see Teletext page 229
24HR BROCHURE HOTLINE 01233 211618

This Valentine's day, treat her to Flowers, Chocolates and Brussels.

On Valentine's Day, give flowers to show her you're romantic. Chocolates to show that you'll indulge her. And take her to Brussels to show her that you're different. From only £59* return.

0345 30 30 30
or see an appointed travel agent or railway station.

On Valentine's Day, give flowers to show her you're romantic. Chocolates to show that you'll indulge her. And take her to Brussels to show her that you're different. From only £59* return.

On Valentine's Day, give flowers to show her you're romantic. Chocolates to show that you'll indulge her. And take her to Brussels to show her that you're different. From only £59* return.

Discover THE SECRETS OF EUROPE

Eastern Europe
EUROlines
Budapest Bratislava Vienna
from only £99 return
For details call 0990 145219
EUROPE'S EXPRESS COACH NETWORK

POLAND
10 Day Holiday with Half Board
To Zakopane in the Beautiful Tatras Mountains
NEW! EXCLUSIVE! BROCHURE 0121 711 2981

CZECH REP. HUNGARY, Poland, The Baltic States, Slovakia, Romania and Vienna. Wide choice of traditional quality hotels, flexible departure short breaks, multi-day holidays. All in our '97 brochures. Info Travel 0171 523 3305 ATOL 2292

CZECH/SLOVAKIA. Alpine village in beautiful High Tatras mountains. Forests, lakes, even pool, tennis, GOLF. Tel: 01311 557 0282

PRAGUE, BUDAPEST, Hungary, and more from the Eastern European specialists. Bridgewater Travel 0171 523 3305 ATOL 2292

PRAGUE, VIENNA, BUDAPEST and Slovakia. Central locations, hotels & apartments. Call 01709 825059.

CITY BREAKS: Prague, Budapest, Krakow. Hotel in £15 pp. New! Ideal for a Polish castle tour, rent a chalet in Bohemian Tatra Mountains or Lake Blat in Slovakia. Auto Plan 01543 25777

"Explore the wide world at an easy pace on a Real holiday"

Ramblers' escorted walking, exploring and sightseeing holidays cover the world. Physically refreshing, mentally rewarding and great fun too: wonderful for lovers of hills, mountains, and great ancient cities. Small parties, nice hotels, air and coach departures. All holidays graded. Brochure on request, plus winter's with 80+ different holidays including cross-country skiing. Main 1997 with over 140 holidays all over the world. Walk, trek, explore, sightsee, cross-country ski - you'll love it.

Free 1997 brochures
Tel: 01707 331133 Fax: 01707 333276
RAMBLERS HOLIDAYS
Box 43, Welwyn Garden City AL9 6PQ
E-mail: ramblers@btinternet.com

Oasis
Walking holidays for 20s/mid 30s
Small escorted holiday parties exploring & sightseeing in Europe, Morocco, Canada & South Africa for the teenage to mid-thirties age range. Real holiday graded from sightseeing in lush mountain valleys, to sea-cliff hotels, mostly scheduled flights. As Oasis we really give you a taste - Brochure free

OASIS HOLIDAYS
Tel: 01707 333276 Fax: 01707 333276
Box 43, Welwyn Garden City AL9 6PQ

Spain

Spain Portugal & Madeira
Paradise, Country houses & hotels in 'undiscovered' Spain, Mallorca & Canary Islands. Charming, Fly drive, Parties, Coaches & flexible tailor made options. Plan Portugal & Madeira. Foundation. Major houses, hotels & clubs. See our leaflet or call

MUNDI COLOR
0171-828 6021

BOATING IN FRANCE
Savour the food and wines of France from the widest choice of holidaying holidays. Craft in 'luxurious' high standards. For your '97 brochure - Quote RA213. FREEPHONE 0800 540 526.

NOSEASONS
PRIVATE CHARTER aboard luxury, BR crewed motor yacht. Sips & Sailing (8th year) 0181 346 8515

SOREN LARSEN Tell ship sailing in the Pacific. Voyages 6 to 18 days from £448. Explore Worldwide ATOL 2595. 01292 344161.

Skiing Holidays

French Skiing at its best
Choice of travel and accommodation at amazing prices
Free Low Cost Representative in Great Britain
Les Arcs
Brochure 0171-584 7828
Reservations 0171-584 2841

Skiing Holidays

COURCHEVEL & VAL D'ISERE
Reduced Prices • Catered Chalets
Feb 1 from £325 pp
FINLAYS
01835 830562

Spain

Unspoilt Catalonia SPAIN
Quality Villages
Apts. & Hotels
SPANISH HARBOUR
0171 856 6777

The book of classic cruising

Fred Olsen Cruises 1997

Sail from England aboard classic liners in elegance and style. Join us on our journeys to exotic destinations around the world from Around Africa to the Aegean, from New England to the Norwegian fjords, from the Canaries to the Caribbean.

Read our 92 page brochure now and discover why Fred Olsen Cruise Lines are Masters of the classic cruise.

Telephone 0990 77 22 99 now
Fred Olsen Cruise Lines PO Box 170 Ashford TN24 0Z

SKI AUSTRIA
7, 10 & 14 days to the Alps
30 resorts across USA & Canada
For brochure call 0181 552 1281
0181 552 1102

NORWAY SWEDEN
SAILING CRUISES
0116 275 2750

Alpine Answers
THE LATE AVAILABILITY SPECIALISTS
FOR THE LATEST PRICES CALL
0181 871 4656

SKI TRACER
Save time & money, call us for:
• Best deals on the market
• Tailor-made holidays
• Weekend/Summer Skiing
0171 603 3138

SAALBACH & HINTERGLAUM, AUSTRIA
Superb winter holiday in the heart of the Alps
FREE BROCHURE
Tel: 0171 730 7234

SWITZERLAND
SIMPLY SKI - Quality chalets in Europe's top resort Courchevel, Meribel, La Plagne, Verbier, Val d'Isere. Please call 0181 742 2541
ABTA 11337 ATOL 1822 AITO

Spain

Unspoilt Catalonia SPAIN
Quality Villages
Apts. & Hotels
SPANISH HARBOUR
0171 856 6777

Turkey

Turkey for the Discerning Traveller
Discover a delightfully different Turkey, away from the museums, with our unique range of rural cottages, villas with pools and friendly hosts. Plus our flexible 'Wandering' programme, special interest holidays, golf, cruise and beach holidays.

0181 995 9323
ATA 1137 ATOL 195 ATO

WINTER SUN in North Cyprus from £280 for 2 weeks, all inclusive. Intra Travel 0171-383 7701. ATO 2302

DISCOVER the beauty of Turkey from aboard private BR crewed 6 berth motor yacht (8th year) 0181-634 0515.

TRIPS
worldwide
CALL THE EXPERTS FOR MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE ALTERNATIVE CARIBBEAN
0117 987 2626

Awesome
THE ADVENTURE of a lifetime, this Spring, through Israel and Jordan. THE CHALLENGE, and satisfaction, of raising money for Oxfam's work.
Phone 01865 312456 NOW for more details.

Oxfam United Kingdom and Ireland is a member of Oxfam International
Registered charity No. 202918

terra firma
himalayan trekking
classic, comfortable or challenging treks
brochure line 0171. 639 0484 call any time

AITO
THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TOUR OPERATORS

For a unique range of real holidays that are fully bonded, flexible and definitely original - book AITO!

The ultimate package tour

The Pillman family visits the Museum of Advertising and Packaging in Gloucester

In an age of superstores, self-scanning check-outs, convenience meals and throw away cartons, who has time for packaging? Thank goodness Robert Opie had the foresight to hoard such trivia as yoghurt pots and custard tins from an early age. A mere 10 per cent of his collection, rumoured to consist of 300,000 items, is on show in the Museum of Advertising and Packaging in the lively area of Gloucester Docks.

Colourful, intriguing, entertaining and nostalgic, this museum feels like home. Windows are crammed with soups, biscuits, sweets, toothpaste, tea, coffee, jams, cereals, drinks, cleaning products. The collection effectively traces the history of shopping, and what this says about us. As the century progresses so graphic design and pack technology, marketing and advertising develop, stimulated by increasing competition and consumer expectation. The museum lays bare the history of our domestic lives and is also a cheerful celebration of logos and slogans.

The visitors
Briony Pillman, a graphic artist and proprietor of Cherry Tree Designs, took her daughters, Katie, 11, and Harriet, nine. They were accompanied by their grandmother, Avril Lethbridge, a writer and producer.

Harriet: This was a really brilliant way of learning. It was more fun coming with Mummy and Granny. They could tell us what they remembered and how things had changed, and they noticed change just as much as us. I remember the yoghurt pots with feet from when I was small.

I liked the special biscuit tins in the shape of trains, boats and books. I liked looking at all the different designs and packets, but I also liked seeing the old machines, like the ugly old fridge and the mangle like the one at Kade's school. I would like to have a cash register like the ones here.

Katie: I really enjoyed myself. We've been doing packaging at school this term, so it was interesting to see so much. I preferred the earlier posters and packets which were prettier, very detailed and less colourful. Modern packaging may not look as pretty as this, but it's brighter, fresher, more hygienic and more appetising.

I discovered Granny was born the same year as the Mars bar. It was good to have her with us because she remembered so much and could answer our questions, particularly about the war years. She told us that powdered egg tasted disgusting; she explained some of the posters to us,



A small, nostalgic selection of the rumoured 300,000 items Robert Opie has had the foresight to collect

JOHN LAWRENCE

like the ones saying "Talk to a friend, you may be talking to the enemy". She had even worn a gas mask. I can't believe she really lived through the war.

I loved the chocolate boxes. Some were really decorative and beautiful; made of wood or cardboard, they were covered in velvet in deep

colours and decorated with elaborate metal handles and clasps. If I had been given one I would have wanted to keep it for ever.

Briony: The museum had a very nice atmosphere. It is brilliant for children and adults. It gave all of us a feel for history as well as art and design. I liked

the way it was shown in decades at the beginning, so you could get a feel for the time, the way people lived and thought: from the elegant Victorian era to the bleak war years to the first pre-prepared meals of the Sixties and the gradual development of skin and hair care products, into the Nineties. It was fun to follow certain products through, like

the small packet of soap suds which was eventually replaced by the giant-sized Persil we know today.

It was intriguing to see just how important the initial image is - and was. Such things as the shape of the Bovril jar, the logo for Oxo, Heinz, Libby's. All these reinforce the image that sells the product, and they could never change. The design and use of materials have changed, though, as well as our taste. Some of the old packaging ideas are even being reintroduced, like the Smiths crisps with the little blue packet of salt.

Avril: I had a lovely time. Everything brought back so many extraordinary memories, like those little Canoes liver pills, and the Coty powder that I had always given my nanny for Christmas.

This is an absorbing way to learn social history. I found all these old tins, packets, bottles and posters most appealing - it's just like playing shops. Harriet was very taken by the old cash registers and household equipment scattered around, from mangles to Hoovers. I liked seeing what appealed to the children. Their violent reaction to the cumbersome Fifties' fridge was fascinating; they are so used to the streamlined equipment we have now.

I wouldn't have noticed nearly so much if they hadn't pointed things out to me. Their fascination in what I'd experienced was lovely, if a bit alarming at times. They probably felt Granny is older than God.

The deal
The Robert Opie Collection is at the Museum of Advertising and Packaging, The Albert Warehouse, Gloucester Docks, Gloucester GL1 2EH (01452 302309).

Access: Parking is possible in the Docks and there are other short-stay car parks in the area. Disabled access to the museum.

Opening times: Tues-Sun, 10am-5pm in winter months. Every day from March-Sept. Closed Christmas and Boxing Day.

Admission: Adults £2.95, children 95p, OAPs and students £1.95, family £6.95.

Food: A small museum café serves drinks, crisps and biscuits.

Shop: There is a small shop selling books, postcards, posters, and a few toys and gifts.

Toilets: The nearest are in the Merchants Quay shopping centre (2 minutes' walk).

Catherine Stebbings

'Are we nearly there?' - a circus roundup for children

These days children can run away to the circus - to learn clowning skills. Below are some of the best centres.

Circus Space, Coronet Street, Hackney, London N16 (0171-613 4141)

One of the best known circus schools, teaching children to do a perfect back flip, swing upside-down on a trapeze, and keep eight balls in the air while walking on stilts. There's the added bonus of drama lessons. Mon (7-9 years),

Tue (10-12 years), Thu (12 years and over) 4.30pm-6.30pm, all £5.

Circusmedia, Kingswood Foundation, Britannia Road, Kingswood, Bristol (0117 947 7042)

Jackie Williams used to work as a trapeze artist for Cirque du Soleil, and offers highly professional training. "We use top quality equipment and encourage children to decide what they want to specialise in," she says, "so they can work towards compiling

their own CVs." Children can learn trapeze, tight wire, unicycling, acrobatics, stilt-walking and mini-trampoline. Sat (10.30am-1pm), Sun 1pm-7pm, Wed (trapeze, 6pm-7pm). 10 years and over. Annual membership £15 (inc personal accident insurance). Lessons cost £65 per 10-week term, plus £20 blanket cost for extra classes. Taster sessions, £5.

Skylight Circus Arts, Broadwater Centre, Smith Street, Rochdale,

Lancashire (01706 506 76) Combines traditional clowning with activities such as physical theatre, dance and puppetry. Regular big top community shows: the next, in April, features huge carnival costumes, slide projections, trapeze displays, stunts. Classes on Wed 4pm-5.30pm £1, trapeze sessions Thu 4pm-5pm, £1.

Greentop Community Circus Centre, Holywell Road, Sheffield, Yorkshire (0114281 8350)

Manipulation, equilibristics and acrobatics are among the arts that are taught at this centre - in other words, plate-spinning, globe-walking and handstands. A new 10-week term begins in March. Classes are on Wed 4.30pm-6.30pm (5-16 years), £2 members, £3 non-members.

For your nearest centre, call the National Association of Youth Circus (0113 287 6880).

Liese Spencer

Flightsavers. Call the best. Forget the rest.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Athens.....from \$147 | Orlando.....from \$186 |
| Bombay.....from \$363 | San Francisco.....from \$265 |
| Dublin.....from \$59 | Sydney.....from \$464 |
| Johannesburg.....from \$364 | Toronto.....from \$189 |
| New York.....from \$174 | Round-World.....from \$684 |

(Prices exclude International Departure Taxes. Prices subject to change.)

For all flight requirements plus:
• Car hire • Airport hotels • Airport parking • Insurance
Call

0990 014101

Co-Op Travel

Small agents for ATOL, Indemnity, No credit card surcharge.

TSAR GAZING. RUSSIA FROM £305.



What better time to experience the splendours of Russia than now. Especially with our bargain city breaks starting at just £305. Alternatively, you may wish to take a special twin centre city break to Moscow and St Petersburg, or an art and culture tour from £685.

This year, make your ordinary holiday extraordinary. Visit Russia the specialist. Intourist Travel. Call us now for more details.

LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW
01 538 8600 0161 834 0230 0141 204 5809
Please send us more information on Internet holidays.

Intourist TRAVEL LIMITED

Now you can.

From Durham to Durban...

...Wherever your holiday takes you, Saga takes care of all the details, so you can have the time of your life. Service, quality and unbeatable value are just some of the hallmarks. So, whether it's a hotel stay, coach tour or cruise, our friendly staff, carefully chosen accommodation and well-planned itineraries ensure you enjoy a well-earned break. 45 years of listening to comments and suggestions has taught us just what our holidaymakers expect. That's why so many people book with us again and again!

If you are aged 50 or over, call our 24-hour brochure request line now.

FREE 0800 300 456 Ext 1553

SAGA FOR THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

Please return to: Saga Holidays Ltd, FREEPOST (NT2710), Penlee X, Co. Durham SR8 2HU. You do not need a stamp. Please send me the following brochures:

United Kingdom ☐ Worldwide
Hotel Stays ☐ USA/Canada
University & College Centres ☐ Faraway Places:
Coach Holidays ☐ (Africa, Asia, Australasia, Far East)
Tours ☐ Single Centre ☐ Cruises Ocean ☐ River
Europe & the Mediterranean ☐ Exclusively to Saga

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____
Address _____
Town _____ County _____
Postcode _____ Tel No. _____

Date of Birth (Mr) ____/____/____ Date of Birth (Mrs/Ms) ____/____/____
Saga Holidays Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass information to those companies to enable them to do so.

April 1997 will see the launching of the MS Amadeus, one of the finest river vessels ever to be built for the rivers of central Europe. Join us on her ten night maiden voyage from Cologne to Passau on a journey which will take us along the Rhine, the Main and the Danube.

THE MS AMADEUS

Currently under construction in a Dutch shipyard, the 150 passenger MS Amadeus will be launched in March and undergo river trials prior to her maiden voyage from Cologne on 6 April 1997. The vessel will be owned and operated by the experienced Austrian operators Luftner Reisen.

THE MAIDEN VOYAGE OF THE MS AMADEUS

6-16 APRIL 1997

THE ITINERARY

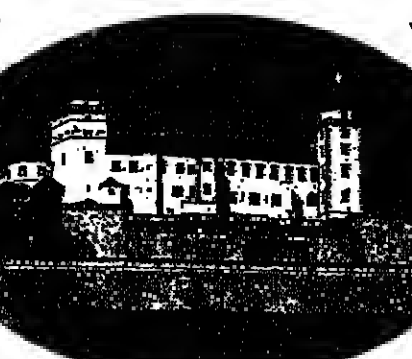
DAY 1 London (Heathrow) - Cologne with British Airways. Brief city excursion including the impressive Cathedral, followed by lunch and afternoon embarkation on the MS Amadeus. Sail along the Rhine and turn into the Moselle River.

DAY 2 Cochem Arrive before breakfast in this marvellously picturesque river town, surrounded by rising terraces of vineyards. The town is dominated by a hilltop castle, the Reichsburg, built in 1029.

DAY 3 Rudesheim Sailing back to the Rhine, we will visit the ancient town of Rudesheim, situated in the heart of the Rheingau, the centre of Germany's wine growing area.

DAY 4 Frankfurt - Aschaffenburg Spend the morning in Frankfurt, the site of the first German parliament, the birthplace of Goethe and one of the joint capitals of Charlemagne's empire. Leaving the Rhine we will enter the River Main and sail to Aschaffenburg for an overnight mooring.

DAY 5 Aschaffenburg - Miltenberg - Marktheidenfeld Sail at dawn to Miltenberg, a picturesque Bavarian village. Join a guided walking tour past delightful medieval and Renaissance houses, the imposing Gothic Merchant's Hall and the Market Square. Afternoon sailing to Marktheidenfeld, a tiny Franconian hamlet for an overnight mooring.



with whom we have worked for many years and who have managed vessels on the Danube since the 1950's.

She will be in a class of her own, offering beautifully appointed cabins with outside views, private shower and toilet, colour satellite television and video, individual climate control and direct-dial telephone. The well designed public areas are spacious and include: a one sitting dining room offering superb international cuisine, the Panorama lounge and bar, Lido bar, library, shop and hairdressers. On the top deck there is a heated swimming pool, loungers and spacious observation areas.



Gothic churches and the medieval market. Moor overnight in Regensburg and enjoy a walk around one of the best preserved medieval towns in Europe.

DAY 10 Regensburg - Passau Stay in Regensburg until the mid-afternoon. Sail through the night to Passau.

DAY 11 Passau - London (Heathrow) Drive to Munich for British Airways return flight.

PRICES PER PERSON

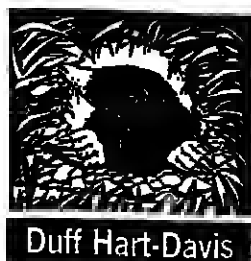
Prices range from £1095 to £1395 for a two bedded cabin on the Haydn Deck. £1650 on the Strauss Deck and £1870 on the Mozart Deck. Single cabins are available from £1995 on the Haydn Deck. Prices subject to surcharge. Ports subject to change. Price includes: Economy class air travel, 10 nights aboard the MS Amadeus on full board, special events on board, transfers, port taxes, UK departure tax, services of Cruise Director.

Not included: Travel Insurance, excursions, airport taxes, tips to crew.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Please telephone 0171-409 0376 (7 days a week)

NOBLE CALEDONIA LIMITED
11 CHARLES STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1K 3RE
TELEPHONE 0171-409 0376 FACSIMILE 0171-409 0374
24 HOUR BROCHURE ANSWERPHONE 0171-355 1424
ATOL 308 ABTA V2202



Duff Hart-Davis

The ditches were coated with ice. Between them the peat quaked beneath our feet. I felt I had stumbled into Conan Doyle's lost world

I find it difficult to imagine Britain covered by ice 1,000ft thick. But that is what one had to bear in mind to get the best out of a remarkable meeting on Wednesday in Delamere Forest, a few miles from Chester.

When the glaciers retreated northwards at the end of the last ice age, colossal lumps broke off them and forced down the substrata into hollows now known as kettle-holes. Delamere contains several, and this week attention was focused on the largest, Blakemere Moss, nearly a mile long and up to half a mile wide.

Final settlement of the earth's surface left this oblong hollow without any exit for the water that trickled in off surrounding land. The result was a peat bog, and for hundreds of years man struggled to drain it so that it would grow trees.

Local legend has it that in about 1815, prisoners from the Napoleonic wars were set to dig drainage ditches and, in particular, one exit channel. Foresters then planted the moss with oak, and, when this failed, with Scots pine. In the Twenties the area was taken over by the Forestry Commission, which in the Forties tried again with a mixture of pine and western hemlock.

This, too, grew poorly, and over the years fortunes were spent on keeping the ditches open. Then in

1992 the commission took a momentous decision: to scrap the scruffy trees and see if it could return the area to bog, or even create a lake. As one senior officer remarked, "For people whose lives are dedicated to growing trees, it was such a conceptual leap that for a long time nobody could face it."

The commission established that there would be no local opposition to the idea, and last June a harvester machine went to work: 16 weeks later, 4,500 tons of timber had been cleared, leaving a sea of loch and top. A contractor was called in to pile it into heaps, which will be burnt as soon as they are dry enough.

Having created a spectacular opening in the forest, the commission now has to decide what to do with it. A concrete sluice has been built on the one exit drain, and it will be possible to raise the water level by simply putting in boards across the 5ft opening. But should the entire area be flooded? What will happen, in hydrological and hydrological terms, if 100 acres go under water?

Meeting Wednesday's, at which a dozen scientists were invited to give their views. A visit to the site made a profound impression. Suddenly, in the middle of the forest, we came on this vast open area, dotted with hundreds of brushwood heaps, and

surrounded by a curving fringe of Scots pines, which, standing on higher, sandy ground, have grown tall and straight.

The Napoleonic drainage ditches were coated with ice. Between them the peat quaked beneath our feet. Maybe it was because I had bought a postcard of a pterodactyl in the visitor centre, but I felt I had stumbled into Conan Doyle's lost world. When a peat specialist rammed his sampling tube straight down, it came up with a dark brown core a metre long, it was eerie to think that the earth-like substance at the bottom had not seen the light of day for at least 5,000 years.

Accommodation and living conditions on NTFS working holidays can be primitive – the fact that they are known as Thistle Camps provides a clue as to the potential discomfort. Sharing a tiny, bunk-bedded dorm in a stone bothy may sound a touch grim and puritanical, but, in our Highland Hilton, the power shower and microwave at least ensured that we were well fed and warm after a day in the rain, chopping down trees and manhandling rocks. Food is provided and cooking duties are shared between the volunteers and camp leaders. It's haggis, neeps and tatties rather than pine nuts and polenta (although vegetarians are catered for), and there's more oatmeal than aubergine, but after a day's hard labour, your body will thank you for it.

Last year approximately 22,000 volunteer-hours were spent working on NTFS projects and the organisation's role is vital for the future of the Scottish countryside. The NTFS says that much of the essential groundwork on properties is carried out by volunteers. Next year there will be 42 Thistle Camps, with about 400 places. If you want a chance to do something "different" this summer, such as restoring a section of General Wade's Old Military

Northern exposure

The muddy delights of a Scottish working break. By Peter Conchie

Shovelling mud from a waterlogged ditch on a rainy October morning in Glencoe may not sound like everyone's flask of tea. But as a refreshing, cheap, life-enhancing escape from a sedentary city existence, a National Trust For Scotland working holiday is one of those experiences that everyone should try at least once.

As the NTFS has more than 100,000 acres of countryside in its care and is the largest voluntary conservation body in Scotland, opportunities for volunteers are numerous. From hacking rampant *Rhododendron ponticum* on the island of Arran to reconstructing turf dykes on the battlefield at Culloden, scene of the Jacobite uprising of 1746, work is energetic and enlightening.

Accommodation and living conditions on NTFS working holidays can be primitive – the fact that they are known as Thistle Camps provides a clue as to the potential discomfort. Sharing a tiny, bunk-bedded dorm in a stone bothy may sound a touch grim and puritanical, but, in our Highland Hilton, the power shower and microwave at least ensured that we were well fed and warm after a day in the rain, chopping down trees and manhandling rocks. Food is provided and cooking duties are shared between the volunteers and camp leaders. It's haggis, neeps and tatties rather than pine nuts and polenta (although vegetarians are catered for), and there's more oatmeal than aubergine, but after a day's hard labour, your body will thank you for it.

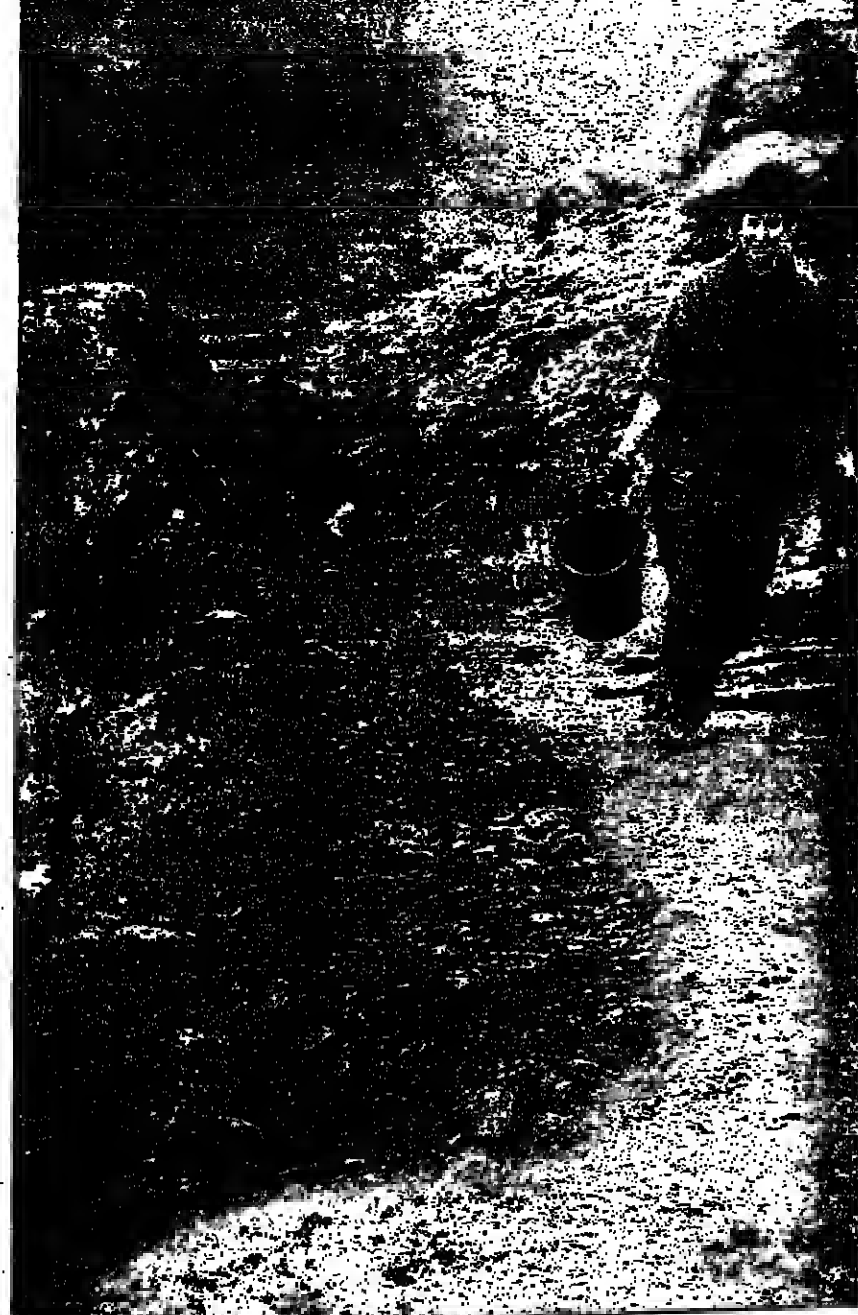
Last year approximately 22,000 volunteer-hours were spent working on NTFS projects and the organisation's role is vital for the future of the Scottish countryside. The NTFS says that much of the essential groundwork on properties is carried out by volunteers. Next year there will be 42 Thistle Camps, with about 400 places. If you want a chance to do something "different" this summer, such as restoring a section of General Wade's Old Military

Road in Glencoe (you may have seen Liam Neeson being dragged along it by a horse in the film *Rob Roy*), book early, as camps soon fill up.

"They're not all dyed-in-the-wool conservationists," says Jim Ramsey, an NTFS volunteer co-ordinator. "But they all have a vaguely greenish tinge." Present in our party were a 43-year-old graphic designer from Germany, a brasserie manager from Edinburgh, and a Swiss schoolboy, while two Ghanaians cancelled at the last minute, unable to obtain visas. Philip, our charismatic leader in Glencoe, is a former art student who now finds all the creative satisfaction he needs from digging holes in the ground.

With tea break an hour away and water dripping from the end of his nose, Andy from Inverness summed up the slightly perverse appeal of Thistle Camps: "I can't work out whether I'm really miserable," he mused, "or whether I'm really happy." There is, indeed, something cleansing about the experience – it may be altruism, exhaustion or the effects of exposure. But it's refreshing to gauge the effects of a hard day's toil by the sores on your arms and the redness of your cheeks, rather than the high blood pressure and nervous tics from a day in a stressful office.

Thistle Camps take place in some of the most beautiful and remote areas of the British Isles and provide a unique opportunity to experience, in both an aesthetic and a practical sense, the unspoiled glory of the Scottish countryside. Volunteers repair mountain footpaths at Kintail, build dry-stone walls on the island of Barra, put up fences in West Affric and even maintain historic marble-quarrying equipment on Jona. A new camp sure to be popular in 1997 is on Skye, where the NTFS has recently acquired Beaton's Cottage, an old crofting cottage in the far north of the island. Minor repairs to the Tigh Dubh (Black House) are needed, including the thatching. A week learning an exotic new skill on Skye, with full board, for just £37,



Volunteers pay to rebuild footpaths and drystone walls

PETER CONCHIE

has to be one of this summer's bargains.

However, if you want something yet more adventurous, head for the romantically named Puffin Basecamp on Fair Isle. The two camps there last a fortnight or three weeks (not including a two-day journey on the mail boat from Aberdeen), and volunteers help the families with crofting jobs and haymaking. The islanders really look forward to the volunteers coming in the summer," enthuses Jim Ramsey. "They have a chance to get to know them as they stay for a couple of weeks, unlike the tourists. It's important for them socially." Pairs of NTFS volunteers are assigned to a family, to whom they offer their enthusiasm, and are

rewarded with lunch and companionship. The NTFS provides valuable support to the 50 islanders, while volunteers can visit somewhere extraordinary, and feel rather special in future, whenever they tune into the Shipping News.

NTFS Thistle Camps run from mid-April to late October. The cost ranges from £37 to £232 (concessions) for a one-week camp, to £232 (£67 concessions) for the three-week camp on Fair Isle. All food, accommodation and equipment are provided as well as some transport. To receive a copy of the 1997 programme, send an a.s.c. to: Thistle Camps, National Trust For Scotland, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DU.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

travel • uk

FAX: 0171 293 2505

UK Travel

It's the only brochure you'll need

Country Holidays

BIG 560 PAGE BROCHURE

- Widest choice - Over 4,000 quality cottages to choose from throughout Britain and Ireland.
- 1000's of 1995 prices held. Holidays from £25 per week and £50 per Short Break per property.
- Pets welcome at many cottages.
- Short Breaks available all year round.

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE

Quoting Code 01282

01282 445721

Welcome Cottages Holidays

1997 BROCHURE NOW OUT

- NEW best ever brochure
- best of the season. Don't miss it - phone now.
- Scotland, Northumberland, Lakes, Dorset, North York Moors, Peak District, Wales, Norfolk, Suffolk, Dorset, West Country, Southern Ireland.

01756 702200

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Heart Of England

CHURCH STRETTON SPRING BREAKS

QUIET IDYLIC COUNTRY GUEST HOUSE

Beautiful panoramic views of Shropshire Hills, rural countryside & gardens. Delightful on-site bar, lounge, pool, hot tub, sauna, and more. Ideal for couples, families, or groups. Book now for Spring Breaks. 3 Cottages - HC DB35 £35 ppn

WILLOWFIELD GUEST HOUSE

BROCHURE: 01694 751471

Self Catering UK

The North's Dales, Moors, Lakes & Coast...

- Not covered by other brochures
- Describes over 1000 properties
- Includes maps and detailed information
- Covers the whole of the North

01756 799821

BATH 10th Tudor Merchant's House

Grand but comfortable. Beautifully preserved original interior (16th). Brochure 01273 830806

Devon & Cornwall

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Devon & Cornwall

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Devon & Cornwall

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Devon & Cornwall

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Devon & Cornwall

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Devon & Cornwall

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Devon & Cornwall

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

The Lake District

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

The Lake District

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

The Lake District

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

The Lake District

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

The Lake District

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

The Lake District

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

The Lake District

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Scotland

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Scotland

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Scotland

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Scotland

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Scotland

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Scotland

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Scotland

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Wales

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Wales

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Wales

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Wales

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Wales

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Wales

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

Wales

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

West Country

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

West Country

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

West Country

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

West Country

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

West Country

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

West Country

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

West Country

English Country Cottages

AN UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 444 page colour brochure.

RING (01453) 851232 QUOTE EAST (LH4)

How to rescue a rockery

Anna Pavord continues her workshop series

"Our rockery is a large, arc-shaped arrangement, 24 paces long and about 6ft wide, lumped up in the middle between 2ft and 4ft high. It is made with large chunks of sandstone rock and we think it was built at the same time as the house (1904 Edwardian semi). It must, anyway, be at least 70 years old. It forms a barrier between the front path and the gate, and the rest of the front garden. The whole front garden adjoins our neighbour's. There is no wall or fence, just a joint flower bed with some rather limp roses, but the rockery curves round to complete a semicircle in our neighbour's garden."

We get a lot of rain. We are on the 500ft contour. The prevailing wind is from the south west and it is not without reason that Burnley has a wind farm. The rockery, being lumped up, faces all ways, and the slugs hunt in packs.

Over the years we have tried some replanting, but the rockery is undermined by moles, all the bulbs are eaten by mice and our attempts to brighten things up have failed. We have aubrieta, saxifrage and lungwort, but after spring everything reverts to green.

We would like to extend the flowering season, brighten the rockery and restore it to its former glory, but we don't know where to start or what to plant. Anything that isn't rampant seems to fail. We get quite despondent."

Keith and Judith Hartley's Edwardian semi faces out over the sweeping slopes of Queen's Park in Burnley, Lancashire. It's a splendidly civic part of town: hefty park railings are of green-painted cast iron, with gates bearing brightly painted coats of arms, and the houses down the road were once lived in by the park superintendent, the chief of police and the chief of the fire brigade.

The rockery - the cause of their despair - is the dominant feature of the front garden, common to the two semis, curving in a wide arc to follow the line of the path from the gate to the two front doors. The mirror layout of the front gardens is charming, each of them marked out in the far corner by a huge, sentinel copper beech. The size of the trees suggests that they must have been planted when the gardens were first made.

When the Hartleys moved in, 30 years ago, their neighbours were three spinster sisters, the first owners of the next-door house. They told the Hartleys that Fred Loads, the founder of the BBC's *Gardener's Question Time*, had had something to do with the rockery. Could he have built it? Possibly, though if he did (he worked for a time in Burnley's Parks Department) the rockery can't be the same age as the houses. Fred Loads was born only the year before they were built.

If he did make it, then the rockery is more likely to date from the Thirties, which would fit with the craze for all things alpine at that time. Or he may have been called in then to refurbish a rockery originally laid out when the house was built. I slightly favour the first theory. The curving shape would have been part of the original layout, but you would expect it to have been, in 1904, a flat bed crammed with bedding plants, planted in formal ribbons with contrasting borders.



Keith and Judith Hartley - and their 70-year-old rockery

The humped shape of the rockery is an advantage, in gardening terms, as it creates two completely different planting areas: one sunny, facing south and west, one chiller and shadier, facing north and east.

But the general effect at present is too homogeneous, and Mrs Hartley's attempts to break up the swathes of saxifrage (a white-flowered, mossy type) and lungwort (not, she says, a particularly exciting one) have failed. The rockery needs defining.

One option she had thought of was to transplant some dwarf conifers growing in tubs in the back garden into the rockery at the front. The conifers

include a fine, small pine, *Pinus mugo*, but I thought they would be better left where they are. In open ground, they would grow faster than they have in their tubs and would soon be out of scale with the relatively narrow contours of the rockery.

More could be made of the rocks, which have become almost completely covered by big mats of saxifrage and alyssum. As Mrs Hartley said in her letter, these were hefty chunks of sandstone, very handsome, and they had gathered some wonderful mosses and lichens. Uncovered a little, they would sing out and mark off various pockets of planting between them.

This done, Mrs Hartley would then have to

harden her heart and jettison some plants that she has too much of - and also cut back severely some of those, such as the alyssum, that have become straggly and are overlying their neighbours. When she put in new plants, they should go into bare ground, well forked over, with no other neighbours likely to swamp them in infancy.

Although the humped shape of the rockery would suggest that it has excellent drainage, the Hartleys said that they got lots of rain. I would take the precaution of digging in some extra grit while planting, together with some bonemeal for long-term feeding. Alpine plants wouldn't mind the cold of the 500ft contour. They are used to that. The

most important thing is to give them sufficient air space while they are getting established.

What new plants should the Hartleys try? One of their aims is to extend the season of colour on the rockery. Alpine plants, by nature, tend to peak in the spring, and it is always difficult, without introducing bedding plants, to get a rockery to perform throughout July and August. September is not so difficult, because by then you can reach for cyclamen, such as marble-leaved *C. hederifolium*, and colchicums.

I would choose two sets of completely different plants, to reflect the two differing habitats. On the north-east side, the Hartleys could use a collection of small ferns, cyclamen, the marble-leaved arum, *A. italicum pictum*, and small species crocus, such as *C. tamariscinus* (especially 'Bart's Purple'). I, too, suffer from mice gobbling my crocus, and find the best way is to plant the corns in 5in pots (they can be planted quite close), then staple Netlon or some such plastic mesh over the top and sink the pot and its contents into the ground. Not too deep, for crocus hate lots of earth on their heads. Then you can leave them to multiply in peace.

It wouldn't be worthwhile, in this situation, to plant tiny alpines, such as the special saxifrage that never get bigger than a 10p piece. They'd get lost in the burly-burly.

Judith Hartley is a gardener of the most endearing kind, who would manage to smuggle a couple of pots back from a plant sale even if you tied both hands behind her back. But she'd only make herself miserable if she planted her rockery with the erythroniums and trilliums that she dreams of. They are plants of acid woodland and couldn't be expected to give of their best here, even if they weren't throttled by the alyssum and lungwort.

Other plants to extend the flowering season on the north-east side would be violas such as the superb blue 'Adross Gem' and smudgy mauve 'Haslemere'. The slugs would like them, too, and being an organic gardener, Mrs Hartley is loath to use pellets. Crushed eggshell or sharp grit round the plants might provide a little protection. Yellow and orange Welsh poppies (*Meconopsis cambrica*) should be immune, as would the fine giant purple-leaved bugle. February-flowering *Cyclamen coum* would give colour early in the year, chequer-board colchicums at the end of the season.

For the sunny side, I would try dianthus (with extra grit), species tulips, dwarf campanulas such as *C. cochlearifolia* (fairy thimbles), diascias, Spanish daisy (*Erigeron karwinskianus*), sedums, dwarf iris and small aquilegias such as *A. flabellata*.

My way home from the Hartleys led over the tough high moors of the south Pennines. Although the thaw had started, huge snowdrifts mounded up on either side like frozen waves. At the peak of this bleakness a small sign announcing a nursery, Slack Top Alpines, loomed up through the fog. That would be a good place for Mrs Hartley to acquire new plants, I thought. If they can take the vicissitudes of life on Slack Top, they sure as hell can survive anything that Burnley could throw at them.

PHOTOGRAPH: NEWTEAM

cuttings

Flower of the hour: *Viburnum x bodnantense* "Dawn" Why? Because it flowers in the darkest days of winter and has a smell that a perfumer would die for. It's deciduous, so the pinkish flowers sit prominently on bare stems. The first flush starts in October and is generally paler than the later flush, which can go on until April. Upright at first, it gradually plays out as it ages to make a shrub that is as

broad as it is high, the stems springing from ground level up to 9ft. It flourishes in any soil, in sun or shade.

The University of Oxford Botanic Garden has arranged a series of winter lectures, beginning this month when the photographer Andrew Lawson will talk on "The Gardener's Palette". For his lecture, on Thursday 30 January, Mr Lawson draws on the theme of his best-

selling book, *The Gardener's Book of Colour* (Frances Lincoln, £25). There are five lectures in the series, including the brilliant Helen Dillon talking on garden artistry. All lectures start at 8pm and will be held in the Garden Quad Auditorium, St John's College, Oxford. Tickets cost £6 for a single lecture or £25 for all five. Contact Louise Allen, University of Oxford Botanic Garden, Rose Lane, Oxford OX1 4AX (01865 276920).

gardening

BEAUTIFUL GARDENS TAKE SHAPE WITH **Agriframes**

PERGOLAS, BOWERS, GAZEBOS & WALKWAYS

FLORAL ARCHES

OBELISKS

SCREENS AND PANELS

NEW 1997 CATALOGUE

Send NOW for your FREE copy featuring Agriframes structures plus hundreds of the best gardening products and ideas.

To: Agriframes Ltd, Brochure 4313, Chantwoods Road, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 2HG.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Please tick if you prefer to receive your copy of the new catalogue by email ☐

FREE CATALOGUE Tel: 01342 810000 (24hrs) FAX: 01342 310099

GREENHOUSE HEATERS CALOR GAS

GREAT NEWS for GARDENERS

Colour Illustrated Catalogue

Westfield Road, Styfield Industrial Estate, Guildford Surrey GU1 1RR

The Calor Gas Centre

Guildford (01483) 300410

MasterCard

GREENHOUSE HEATING

METAMATIC gives SPENDING HEAT ALL THE YEAR ROUND

Oil or Solid Fuel

Send for literature NOW or phone 01831 720539

16 H Products, Dept. LND, 50 South Street, Ashbourne, Leicestershire LE6 1TR

GREENHOUSE ACCESSORIES

DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURER

Send for free catalogue, including: Glass, Plastic, Polycarbonate, Styling, Glazing, etc. etc. etc.

ONLY £34.99

Tel: 01833 345742/346615 (24 hours)

7 days for your FREE Catalogue

16 H Products, Dept. LND, 50 South Street, Ashbourne, Leicestershire LE6 1TR

ELECTRONIC THERMOSTAT

Control for Greenhouses, Hot Watering Cables or Irrigation. Automatic setting and LED indicator.

Call now for a free brochure on 01831 720539, or write to: Backwoodman, Dept. IND, Barlaston, OSAN, Argyll, PA37 1SL

THE INDEPENDENT

Tuscany & Rome

A wonderful 7 night holiday

DEPARTURES IN MAY, JUNE & OCTOBER 1997

From £359 PER PERSON

Explore Tuscany this year and discover a landscape of rolling hills, medieval villages, picturesque towns and historic cities. You will fly from London Heathrow to Rome and transfer to Chianciano Terme for 7 nights at a hand-picked hotel. During your stay you can visit Siena, San Gimignano and the hilltop town of Montepulciano on one of the optional tours available. Why not take a trip to Assisi or call at Orvieto for a taste of the crisp local wine. Don't miss the chance to visit the Renaissance City of Florence, a treasurehouse of artistic masterpieces. A full day visit to Rome is included in the holiday price and you will have time to see the Colosseum, the Vatican City or marvel at Michelangelo's fresco in the Sistine Chapel.

THE HOLIDAY INCLUDES

- 7 nights accommodation in Tuscany
- Transfers in Italy
- Full day visit to Rome
- All airport taxes
- Services of a Tour Manager

These holidays have been arranged in conjunction with Festive Holidays Limited, ABTA V106X, ATOL 2172

Reg. in England 1995/97 Newspaper Publishing plc

Reg. Office: 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

Send for your brochure today by telephoning **FESTIVE HOLIDAYS** on 0990 55 33 55 or return the coupon below to:

INDEPENDENT TORONTO OFFER, FESTIVE HOLIDAYS LIMITED, PATE COURT, NORTH PLACE, CHELTENHAM, GLOS GL50 4DY.

Independent Tuscany & Rome Offer IND/TUR

Please forward me a brochure:

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

☐ Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Newspaper Publishing plc or from companies approved by Newspaper Publishing plc.

INT034

PENSTEMON

These beautiful cottage garden perennials with graceful tubular bell shaped flowers will bloom from June to November.

We are offering 6 individually named varieties in the widest choice of colours for £11 including postage.

Delivery early spring.

Please make cheques payable to:

Pershere Plant Raisers,

Pensham, Pershore, Worcs WR10 3HB

Tel: 01386 554672

To advertise in this section please call the Gardening Team on 0171 293 2323/2344.

TOPIARY WIRE FRAMES LTD

Telephone for brochure

Tel: 01580 201092 • Fax: 01580 201093

DETAILS AVAILABLE

all consuming

Under the counter with Lindsay Calder Burning up

When 25 January approaches, I start having tartan dreams and haggis nightmares. Tonight is Burns Night, and don't I know it.

For weeks now, I have been planning this evening and it hasn't been easy. Not only do you have to scour the sassenach soil for good Scots fare; whom you invite to sup at your table is just as important. Last year was a disaster. I had specified quite clearly on the invitation that the dress code was tartan. So, when all the lassies turned up in Nicole Farhi neutrals and the lads in pinstripes, my other half and I felt a right pair in our ex-Gordon Highlander trews. The girl who had promised to give a sword dance arrived swordless and unkilted and limply offered a Highland dance LP instead.

My piece de résistance - Jimmy the Pipes - who was given a big billing on the invitation, arrived two hours late, and although I swore that I hadn't just invited him for his pipe-playing skills, it was hard to conceal my disappointment when he finally arrived pipeless. Some girl had broken his finger, so he was off pipes for two months, and couldn't even drink his dram.

This year is not looking much better. My one very eligible single girl has cried off - Flora, who sounds like the Queen but has great legs, threw her head back in a fit of laughter last week, causing her pearl choker to fly off and knock out a tooth. Apparently it will cost £2,000 to fix (the tooth). So, I've invited a glamorous blonde friend whose husband is abroad, and I just hope everyone behaves.

Macswens of Edinburgh make the only

haggis I can trust, but as I won't manage to hop on the shuttle to hag a fresh one by tonight, an export one from Fortnum & Mason will suffice. It's best not to reveal the ingredients to your guests, as a sheep's "pluck" (its lungs, liver and heart) mixed with oatmeal, meat suet and seasoning cooked in the sheep's stomach might not get everyone's juices going. However, Macswens have created a vegetarian version cooked in a plastic bag.

The haggis will arrive to the strangled tones of the pipes (fingers permitting), each guest addressing it - in, I fear, their best Rab C Nesbitt accents - with a verse of Robert Burns' "To a Haggis". Once stabbed, the "warm-reckin, rich" stuff will be served with hashed neeps and champit tatties (mashed swede and potatoes) - filling and fatty fodder.

Finally, lots and lots of The Glenlivet to toast the "Great Chieftain o' the Puddin'-race", so that everyone will have a good time and, more important, won't remember if they haven't.

A Burns Night Survival Kit: The haggis: "To a Haggis" in Robert Burns, *Selected Poems*, Penguin £6.99. The pipes: hire your own from Pipe Major Willie Cochran of the Scottish Bagpipers Agency (0181-805 0912) who sends pipers as far as Korea and the Caribbean (around £100). The haggis: Macswens, £2.50 per lb and vegetarian at £2.70 per lb from Fortnum & Mason, Piccadilly, London. The dram: The Glenlivet, 12-year-old pure single malt, £17.99 from good off-limits.

Fast train to a shopping spree

Privatisation is creating a retail boom in our stations, says Charlotte Packer

Britain's railway stations are better known for their draughty, vandalised waiting rooms and sad little burger bars than for their status as shopping destinations. Perhaps a Sock Shop or tired flower stall occasionally inspires a passing interest, but never for long enough to take one's mind off the fact that the train is late again and the door of the one working toilet is unblockable.

However, things are changing. Already Liverpool Street Station and Victoria Station in London are becoming known for their wide variety of shops, restaurants and other services: Victoria has a doctor's surgery, Liverpool Street a health club; Reading Station's new Brunel Arcade has a fine selection of shops, and others are in the offing: Windsor and Eton Central, Norwich Riverside, Aberystwyth, Salisbury and Cambridge are just a few of the provincial stations which will soon become shopping centres.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Japan, the consumer capital of the world, has some of the most advanced railway stations-cum-shopping centres with large department store chains such as Tokyū and Odakyū actually owning railway lines. Virtually every major railway station in Tokyo has a six- or seven-storey department store towering above the concourse. But several smaller provincial stations have begun to specialise in shops and restaurants with critically-acclaimed noodle houses and purveyors of Bento lunch boxes encouraging passengers to travel to the station simply for its food.

In this country, Liverpool Street station has several food shops and eateries which are visited by people other than those just wanting to catch a train. The Mushi Mushi Sushi bar, with its paper lanterns and conveyor belts of food, is known as one of the best raw fish restaurants in London. Anthony Eaton, the bar's general manager, says that it should not be unusual to eat and shop well at stations. "In France and the Low Countries station restaurants are often the best in town. Luxembourg station still has the best restaurant in the country. Why should travellers have to put up with microwaved burgers and floppy sandwiches?" Baker and Spice, the Knightsbridge-based patisserie, has opened a shop on the station gallery with freshly baked bread and



The Mushi Mushi sushi bar in Liverpool Street Station

PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON BYE

pastries delivered twice daily from the Walton Street Bakery. On the concourse below, the International Cheese Centre sells more than 400 different varieties of cheese - the largest selection in the country - as well as Justin de Blanc cakes and jars of home-made pickles and spices. Ray Kenny, manager of the shop, says that it expanded from its Goodge Street location because "customers from around the country complained that they had to make too long a detour to reach the shop."

"Many of our customers pick up the train from one of the East Coast line stations, buy some cheese and then get back on the train," says Mr Kenny. He added that when Harrods

and Fortnum's cannot satisfy a customer's request, they refer them on to him. The Cheese Centre is, for example, the only place in the country where you can buy Belgian cheese, should you so wish.

Building work has just started on the Grade II listed station at Windsor and Eton Central, a branch line which links passengers to Slough and then on to the Great Western line to Bristol in one direction and Paddington in the other. The development, which will include Queen Victoria's waiting room - a late-19th-century piece of listed architecture in Bath stone - as a restaurant, will have 40 different shops and restaurants and has already pre-let

units to several shops including Droopy and Brown the dressmaker's, Jaeger, and Charbonnel et Walker the chocolate makers. Sarah Mansfield, director of the L&R Group, which is developing the station, says that although only recognised names have so far been accepted for letting, the company will also welcome individual retailers. "We have to get the big names in first, because our financing relies on that," she says. "But in a town like Windsor there is a wealth of attractive, individual shops, and we hope the development will blend in with the shopping image of the town." The project is due to be completed by next autumn.

Further down the Great Western

line at Reading, there is already a good selection of shops in the new station concourse, with a hairdresser's, a silver jewellery shop, a good florist, a dry cleaner's and a travel agency.

Although the process of converting stations into acceptable shopping malls has only just begun, the concept makes sense, says Clive Vaughan of the retail consultants Verdict.

"Lots of people travel through stations every day, many with about half-an-hour or more to spare. The newly privatised railway companies are finding that they have a lot of space to spare on their platforms, with station master's quarters, offices and workmen's areas no longer used. Why indeed not invest in attractive retail units?" He added that to stand out from the crowd of multi-chain franchises, stations would do well to specialise.

For example, at Aberystwyth station, where plans to build a shopping centre are under way, the location of the town's museum in the station itself means that specialist antiques dealers and antiquarian booksellers are expressing an interest in leasing some of the shops there. When building is complete at Norwich Riverside station, passengers will be able to while away the time waiting for a train by visiting the new cinema complex and bowling alley, as well as supermarket and specialist shops.

Steve Tyler, a spokesman on retail development at Railtrack, said that the company wants railway stations, like Heathrow Airport, to become shopping destinations in their own right, and that there are currently more than 200 development plans under way. He dismissed the arguments of detractors that the new shopping centres will just serve to soften the blow of delayed and cancelled trains.

"Why shouldn't people want to turn up an hour or so early for their train and go shopping? The bright, airy, bustling stations are an improvement on the windswept concourses of old," he maintains. With a regular passengers' complaint being that at weekends and after six in the evening stations turn into lonely, sometimes disconcerting places, the stations that have already begun to offer travellers more than tea in polystyrene cups and fishing magazines are much nicer places to while away the time before the train departs.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

classified • independent traders

FAX: 0171 293 2505

| For Sales | Collecting | Unusual Gifts | Health & Leisure | Health & Leisure | |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| Pedometers MAP MEASURERS COMPASSES & ALTIMETERS Extensive Range Excellent Prices Our impressive range of 40 Pedometers allow you to choose the right model for your needs. If you Jog, Walk, Run, Cycle or you would just like to know how far you have walked the dog, you can measure the distance travelled. Lightweight and compact. Precision Made Instruments guaranteed for reliability and accuracy. We also have a large selection of Map Measurers, Compasses, Magnifiers, Stop Watches etc. all available at excellent prices. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE despatched by return. WRITE FAX OR PHONE FOR PEDEMETERS INTERNATIONAL LTD (IN2) 13/14 James Watt Close, Drayton Fields, Devonport, Northants NN1 5PJ Tel 01327 706030 Fax 01327 671633 | FINE ANTIQUE DINING TABLES A good selection of 19th century mahogany extending dining tables always in stock Will Farm Antiques Leekhamstead, Berkshire 01488 633541/638361 Only 6 mins from J13 M4 Library and writing furniture also usually available We will endeavour to find the table you require To advertise in this section please call the Independent Traders Team on 0171 293 2323/2344. | FREE Personal Pleasure Products We are the UK's leading supplier of personal pleasure products. We have a wide range of products to suit all tastes and budgets. We are now offering a special discount on all products. Call now for more details. 0131 654 5455 GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS From 1915. Ready for presentation. Same day despatch. RESERVED WHEN 520 Parry Way, 15 Croydon CR9 4BE 0181 633 6323 or call FREE 0800 520 000 | TIDYBIKE NEW In the drive - in the garage - ideal on holiday TIDYBIKE holds up to THREE bikes of any size. Made from solid coated steel, clips together. Saves space, protects bikes from damage. Fully PORTABLE, folds flat for transportation. DETERS THEFT £45.99 INC P&P/VAT Free standing or fixed to the floor Secures against a wall Patent app: 962-4743.2 Write to: 01372 46 46 66 VISA Lines VISA please post for tax/cheque coupon to: TIDYBIKE Ltd, P.O. Box 238 ESHER KT10 0ZD, Surrey, FAX: 01372 469191 Enclosing a cheque/Postal Order, or please debit my credit card:- Address _____ Card Name _____ Post code _____ Signature _____ | Books Le plaisir d'apprendre Use and improve your FRENCH • Read our articles and short stories in French • Speak the language better • Understand more of what you hear • Learn more about France and French life with the help of our popular and unique range of French language products. Details from front La Vie Quotidienne FREEPOST, MA 1311 (1) Maidstone ME15 9BR Fax: 01622 891422 Tel: 01622 882122 12h hour | Fashion Three stylish catalogues with a wide selection of seasonal lingerie and top-quality footwear 1. Lingerie 2. Sleepwear 3. Footwear You can read about this excellent system of hair care in the current edition of HAIR INTERNATIONAL magazine. Alternatively, send a postcard or phone the number below to receive an information pack and PROMOTIONAL VOUCHERS Tel: (01733) 63406 (24 hrs) or postcard to: Arcon UK, Dept IN, PO Box 351 Peterborough PE1 5QQ |
| Treske SOLID WOOD FURNITURE Tables, Chairs, Dressers, Chests, Desks, Bedroom Furniture, Wall Units, etc. RING FOR FREE BROCHURE 01845 522000 Circle Reference to IN1 | RADIO CONTROLLED WATCHES & CLOCKS Phenomenally accurate (JUNGHANS & KUNDO-STÄIGER) timepieces available by Mail Order. Free Catalogue: CORNEAL CLOCKS & WATCHES FREEPOST LS64IM, LEEDS LS6 5YF Tel: 0113 293 7487 (24hrs - 7 days) | Dunlopillo LATEX FFC exclusive FOAMS cut to size for cushions & mattresses NEW CUSHIONS For chairs, sofas, bench seating etc. Uncovered or with our own fitted covers. MATTRESSES Made to measure any size and to your individual comfort. A separate 2 in. deep layer for instant relief on a too hard bed. EVERYTHING DELIVERED SAFELY TO YOUR DOOR. (Fax 0113 230 1089) PHONE 0113 267 8281 or post coupon below for colour brochure, measuring guide and direct prices. Please send stamp for colour brochure or phone. Name _____ Address _____ Postcode _____ FOAM FOR COMFORT Dept IN2 401 Oldley Rd, Cookridge, Leeds LS16 7DF | MORIARTY'S SOLID PINE STORAGE BEDS For NEW colour brochure phone (01235) 850214 | HAIR PROBLEMS? Discover Germany's best kept secret Arcon-Tissue is a natural herbal product newly arrived in the UK from the Continent and now achieving the same superb results here. You can read about this excellent system of hair care in the current edition of HAIR INTERNATIONAL magazine. Alternatively, send a postcard or phone the number below to receive an information pack and PROMOTIONAL VOUCHERS Tel: (01733) 63406 (24 hrs) or postcard to: Arcon UK, Dept IN, PO Box 351 Peterborough PE1 5QQ | |

Books bound for glory

The Folio Society has brought fine books to the masses for 50 years. By Fiona Macaulay

Picture an edition of *The Wind in the Willows*, bound in green silk with a scene from the riverbank printed in gold on the front cover. An expensive limited edition from a specialist printer, you may think. Not at all. It is in fact one of reasonably priced editions from The Folio Society, the mail order publisher which this year celebrates its fiftieth anniversary.

The Folio Society was the idea of Charles Ede, who in his early twenties came out of the army after serving the war years "fit for nothing, as one hadn't been trained to do anything". He did, however, have an interest in fine books and was a devotee of William Morris's work, as a socialist and as a private press printer at Kelmscott.

"The war had produced a social revolution at home," explains Ede, "and all the pressures were towards providing wider opportunities for everyone. The arts, not least literature, were to be made more available, and there was a new consciousness of the importance of good design. My ambition was to marry up the typographical and artistic standards of the private presses with the latest industrial technology." In this way the price of the books could be reduced. Ede also hoped to help revive the standards of book production that had declined due to the austerity measures of the war.

To produce the first batch of Folio books he had to search all over the Continent for extra paper, since his own ration was limited to ten tons, only enough to produce five editions. It was necessary to be inventive and enterprising to make the best of what was available. Some publishers used parachute silk dyed in different shades for their bookbinding. Before the war there had been a richly creative period for book publishing. Private publishers, particularly Golden Cockerel and Nonesuch, were producing beautiful limited-edition books. Charles Ede strove to produce the same sort of results in a more cost-effective way. The demand for good books was strong, since so many people's education had been cut short by the war.

"For a long time we had many members in the services," says the editorial director, Sue Bradbury. "They'd come out of the army having missed out on university, with an appetite for books and a need to be reassured that they were reading the right things."

Folio publishes a wide variety of books. They like to cater for minority taste as well as producing the works of more popular authors: Hardy, Austen, Dickens and Trollope. The most distinctive feature of Folio books has always been the magnifi-

cent bindings and the fine illustrations which are a feature of all the editions. Edward Ardizzone, John Buckland-Wright, Richard Shirley-Smith, Joan Hassall and Nigel Lambourne are just a few of the artists to have worked with Folio. Edward Bawden's contribution was spread over 30 years, beginning with coloured lithographs for *Gulliver's Travels*. His final commission for *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was in 1983. Quentin Blake has so far undertaken *The Hunting of the Snark*, *Cold Comfort Farm* and *Cyrano de Bergerac's Voyages to the Moon and Sun*. Artists not normally known for their illustrative work have also been persuaded to take up the challenge, with dazzling results. Elisabeth Frink illuminated *The Odes of Horace*. Beryl Cook added contemporary flair to *Mr Norris Changes Trains* and Paula Rego penned exquisite drawings for *Peter Pan* and *Nursery Rhymes*.

So, just how good, how significant, is the Folio Society?

The Independent's Literary Editor, Boyd Tonkin, said: "As Alice asked: 'What is the use of a book without pictures and conversation?'"

"For half a century, the Folio Society has set itself apart from cheaper lists of classic reprints by lavishly meeting the first of her demands. Even on the picture front, however, it no longer stands quite alone. Its edition of Alice's *Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*, with John Tenniel's original illustrations, will set you back £29.95. The Everyman's Library hardback - also complete with Tenniel - costs £7.99.

"In general, the Everyman imprint - recently revived with great success by publisher David Campbell - only illustrates its Children's Classics series, although the 250-strong list includes a handsome version of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, in a fine translation, with 42 engravings by Botticelli - a snip at £14.99. The Folio Society creates very covetable objects; still, readers who don't share Alice's picture craving but do like sturdy, elegant hardbacks will find that Everyman offers broader choice and better value.

"Its range now stretches from Homer to Toni Morrison, from the King James Old Testament (introduced by George Steiner) to Nabokov's *Lolita* (introduced by Martin Amis). Above all, David Campbell's bold venture has proved that high production values in reprint publishing need not go along with staid middlebrow tastes."

None of this will deter the Society and their enthusiasm for birthday celebrations. It is putting on an exhibition which begins next week. *Fifty Years of The Folio Society*, at the old British Library, showing a selection of the illustrations and book covers that have been commissioned by Folio.

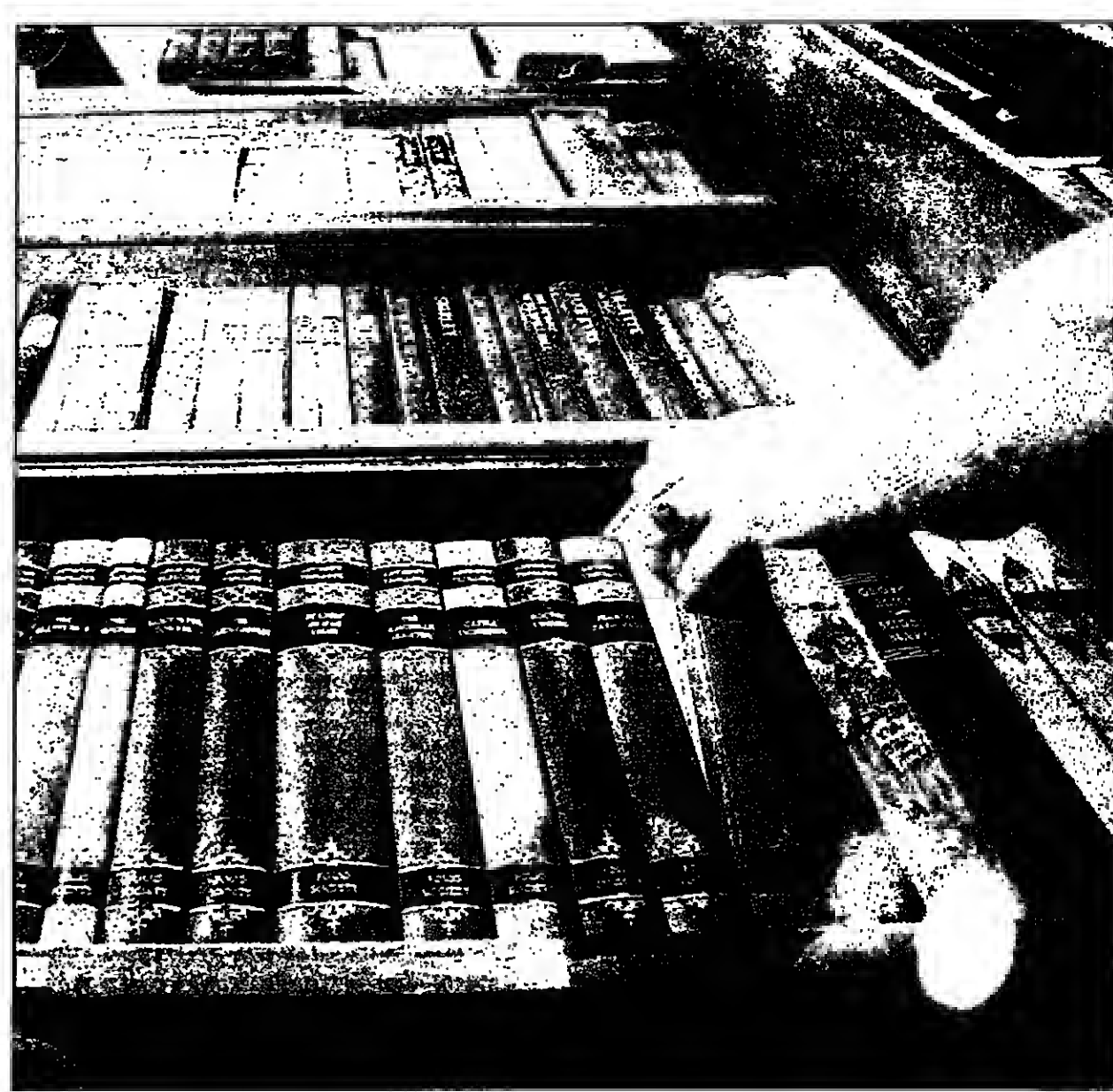
For the last 22 years, Folio has run an illustration competition with the RCA, open to students of the college. Already, 12 of the student prizewinners have been used to illustrate Folio editions. This year they opened the doors to illustrators worldwide and received more than 700 entries.

Folio also sponsors the British Library's annual bookbinding exhibition and competition, *Designer Bookbinders*, which will be at the library until 13 February. In April the society launches Folio Fifty, a list compiled of their members' favourite 50 books, those that have been most influential and loved in their lives. Any that have not already been published by Folio will be issued over the next two years. Apart from that, titles for this year include Hilaire Belloc's *Cautionary Tales and Other Verses*, with illustrations by Posy Simmonds, and *The Genius of James Thurber*, illustrated by the author and bound in silver cloth.

Though the company has changed hands twice since Charles Ede's days, the ethos remains unaltered. The present owner is Bob Gavron, who owned the large printing group, St Ives. "He took Folio on as a quaint and enchanting publishing phenomenon, successful almost in spite of itself," says Sue Bradbury, "but he also wanted to show us that it could be put on a sounder financial footing without compromising its essential character." Folio has come a long way since its first lean years after the war, when Charles Ede could barely pay his own salary of £10 a week. Membership has increased by 150 per cent in the last eight years and Folio now takes full-page advertisements in the Sunday colour supplements, offering an irresistible selection of presentation volumes to new members.

The Folio has managed to retain its close relationship with its ever-increasing hand of members. There is a members' room in the office at Holborn where you can sit on big sofas and look at current releases. You can also visit the more traditional, library-like surroundings of the Folio Gallery in the basement of Henry Sotherton, the antiquarian bookseller in Sackville Street, near Piccadilly Circus.

Sue Bradbury talks with affection of the members and refers to people "becoming folio-ised" - in other words, becoming initiated to the Folio ethos. She still writes letters to members in her elegant italic handwriting, a habit formed in her early days in the membership department



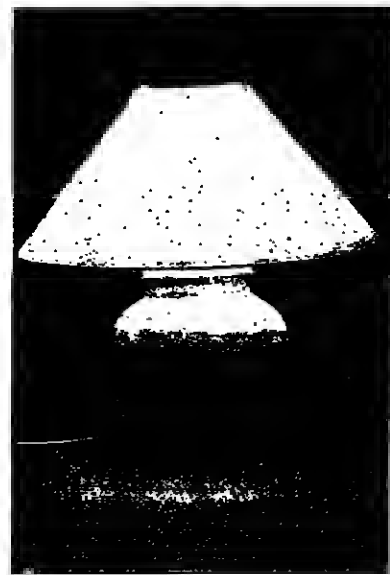
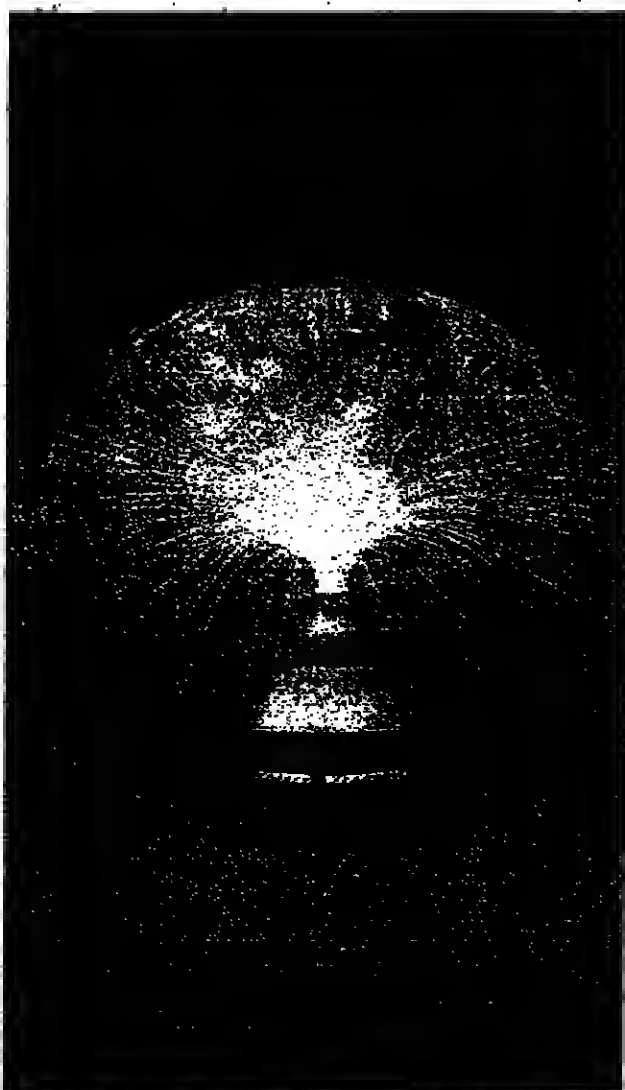
Win £150-worth of books

Here's a chance to win a collection of Folio Society books by playing independent Fantasy Book League. This week, Waterstone's published their readers' top 100 books of the century. It was topped by *The Lord of the Rings*, included *Trainspotting*, *Jurassic Park* and *The Horse Whisperer* and was greeted with universal derision, dismay and disagreement. Tell us your top 10 best books of

the last 50 years. The winner will be the one with the top 10 nearest to the choice drawn up by our literary editor, Boyd Tonkin. The prize: a Folio Society book token worth £150 or a selection from the society's compilations such as PG Wodehouse, Graham Greene or EM Forster. Closing date is this Thursday. Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply.

For membership details contact The Folio Society on 0171-400 4200. The Folio Gallery is at Henry Sotherton, 2 Sackville Street, London W1X 1DD.

Six of the best table lamps



Good news for anyone suffering from Seasonal Affective Disorder: combat the January blues with our selection of table and bedside lamps. Choose from retro optic-fibre lamps or ultra-modern chrome and plastic ones. Prices range from high-street affordable to designer expense.

1 Fibre space, £79.95, by Mathmos, 179

Drury Lane, London WC2 (enquiries and mail order, 0171-404 6605).

2 Green lamp, £108, by Lucieplant, available from Viaduct, 1-10 Summers Street, London EC1 (0171-278 3456).

3 Orange little foot lamp, £79, by Wombat, from Purves and Purves, 80-83 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-580 8223).

4 Terracotta table lamp, £12.99, from RJ's, 209 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-681 9000).

5 Klima ceramic ivory table lamp with square paper shade, £69, from Habitat branches nationwide (0645 334433).

6 Yellow cone table lamp, £22, from Ikea branches nationwide (0181-208 5600).

Stylist: Holly Davies. Photographer: Tony Buckingham

When havoc strikes, what next?

Jane Furnival on the pitfalls of calling for help

The mantra for the Nineties: "Bear with me." It's what the harassed home-maker hears when she phones the manufacturer to ask for a broken machine to be fixed. While they check the diary, you're left hanging on, watching your washing machine spewing foam through your home. Eventually you may get a reluctant offer: "We can fit you in on Thursday week between 9am and 6pm."

Why should we "bear with" this treatment? If an appliance breaks, we have every right to expect that it will be repaired promptly.

Too often we have to pay extra for an independent repair, because the glibly-advertised "nationwide repair teams" don't come the same day, or work evenings or weekends, or offer timed appointments.

They all explain that they can't specify arrival times. But you'd think they could call ahead with an estimated time, or the mobile number of the repair man.

Do they hope that by making it hard to get things fixed, we'll throw away our duff equipment and buy new, bringing them more profit?

Increasingly, yes — though none I spoke to would go on the record. Those rumours of machines built to go just after the standard one-year guarantee are not exaggerated.

One major maker has redesigned a perfectly good washing machine so that if the cheap, vulnerable and easily repaired bearings break, the whole drum has to be replaced at five times the cost, tempting you to scrap it and start again.

Suzanne Brookings, of Twickenham, had a similar problem with her tumble dryer.

"The repair man took one look and said it wouldn't be a good idea to fix it. He tried to sell me a new dryer and a washing machine to match, and said his calling out charge of about £25 would be cancelled if I did. I called a local man

Good thing

All the tricks of the trade and no call-out charges' promises the reader's Digest Complete DIY Manual. You can change a plug or install central heating by enquiring within. £16.95 from bookshops or mail order on 0800 434 434.

Mad thing

While you're waiting for your central heating to be fixed, wear Gialli self-heating washable clothing. Waistcoat or gloves cost £39.95, socks are 49.95 plus rechargeable sealed safe battery at £16.95 or pop in your pocket. Call 01179 690690.

Sure thing

AA Home Assistance's Annual Cover. £39 annual fee buys everyone a 24-hour, 365-day emergency service which sends a pre-vetted plumber, electrician or builder within two hours. You pay no call-out or time charge for ninety minutes, and parts are charged at pre-approved rates. Follow up work is available after the emergency. 0800 383838.

who fixed it in 10 minutes and charged £23." He may have been a member of the Domestic Appliance Service Association, whose code of practice binds them to call within three days and complete 80 per cent of the work then and there. Some supposedly user-friendly companies say that they do offer flexible repair calls. What a shame

their service departments can't always deliver. "Our standard service charge is £52," said a spokesperson at Whirlpool, the US-owned white goods giant, when I asked for a microwave oven repair. Their earliest call was in six days; 11 for a timed appointment. Saturdays take a fortnight and need a supervisor's permission.

This contrasts with the "two-day service pledge" you get when you buy the goods. "We offer 60 per cent of our service calls as timed calls, but these may take an additional one or two days," says Gordon Pickering, service director for Philips, Whirlpool, Bauknecht and Ignis. "We can and do work weekends and evenings. I encourage it. We're going through a difficult patch because of the flu epidemic, but I don't want to sell new appliances. I want to repair them."

Others claiming same-day service if you call before 10am are Cannon, Creda, Electrolux, Hotpoint and Zanussi — though this last couldn't come on the same day when I phoned to test.

If the manufacturers' repair schemes are slow or expensive, the retailers can soften the blow by selling you their own "extended warranty". City stockbrokers have estimated that Dixons depends largely on the profit from warranty sales.

Don't be panicked into buying these. They won't make the man in the van come any faster. Among the retailers, Curry's did not reply to my questions about repair times. Comet's "no-claim, money back" scheme gives a full refund after five years without a call, and an exchange warranty for anything under £100 offers you a new one immediately if it breaks down within three years. The cost is from £9.99.

Comet also operate their own fixing team. "If someone particularly wants evenings or weekends, we'll accommodate them," says a



PHOTO: XXXX XX

spokeswoman. "We've invested in mobile phones for all our engineers, so if there's an emergency, we can divert them to fix it." She also took up my suggestion of phoning to give people a time of arrival.

Some manufacturers make elaborate promises, but cut their service costs in practice by having only one number, which is always engaged.

For example, during my three days' research I couldn't get a reply from Electrolux's South London Repair HQ or from Bosch, Siemens, Gaggenau and Neff, all of which share a number. I've also had this experience with Dyson, who don't have repairers but insist on collecting the cleaner from you (you must be in, no appointment time possible) and returning it.

What can you do? Learn to speak the repairers' language. Ask for a "first call of the day", usually 8.30am. Ask them to avoid school collection times, which most stay-home housewives still have to go out for.

Always ask for the supervisor if a repairs booker is being difficult. They are infinitely more reasonable. If a company breaks a service promise, ask for compensation.

Don't be put off by large companies; challenge their right to charge for repairing a newish defective machine. Involve your local authority's Trading Standards department. "Customers expect to buy something of reasonable quality. That should cover a product for longer than 12 months, the manufacturers' guarantee time," says

Alan Street, head of trading standards. And if you complain, be determined. Unexecuted threats don't bite. If you threaten to go to the small claims court, you may find that your claim is settled speedily.

If a repairs department is always engaged, use the new BT service which automatically goes on trying an engaged number and rings you back when it is answered. When you hear the engaged tone, press 5, then put the phone down. It tries for 45 minutes and costs about 10p.

Find a small repair agent instead of a national network. A local authorised service engineer may have a call-out fee of £30; the bigger companies can cost £60.

Avoid repairs by buying fewer machines, and those less likely to

break. (Which? magazine says washer-dryers are prone to prang.) Don't take frustrations out on the repair man. Worn out secret shorts cuts, such as the private service numbers.

There will always be a corner of my heart for the woman who locked a service engineer into her kitchen rather than let him go away to get yet another spare part. Or you could marry a plumber.

*The Consumers' Association can send new subscribers back numbers of Which? covering extended warranties (April 1995), machine insurance (September 1996) and most reliable brands (March 1995). Free-phone 0800 232100 for information, including an offer of three free issues.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

classified • personal

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Independent Hearts

Replies should be addressed to the relevant box number, c/o The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

zygosis
THE PROFESSIONAL PERSON'S INTRODUCTION AGENCY
We are the only agency that can help you find the perfect person for you. We are the only agency that can help you find the perfect person for you. We are the only agency that can help you find the perfect person for you.

Dateline
The world's largest, and longest-established Introduction Agency. Our unique and successful formula could easily be put to work for you.
FOR FREE DETAILS WITH NO OBLIGATION
WRITE TO: 23 ABBINGTON RD
LONDON W8 6AL OR CALL
(01869) 324 100

SIRIUS
The Intelligent Person's Introduction Agency
Call free 024 781 0111 or 0800 072 0075 for:
• Brochure
• CD or Tape with further details
• Descriptions of the best 24 people in your area
• FREE 24-hour helpline
• FREE 24-hour helpline

TRYST
TRYST is a nationwide introduction agency. We are the only agency that can help you find the perfect person for you. We are the only agency that can help you find the perfect person for you.

CLASSIC 1968 MODEL, good runner, well-maintained, loves the open road. Needs careful lady driver. Contact: Box No 11870.

SANTA LET ME DOWN - so when is the handsome, kind, funny man, 35-40, this slim blonde woman? London area. Box No 11870.

SEAST PROFESSIONAL, 41, seeks slim attractive lady to 35 yrs old with whom to share the important things in life. Photo please. Box No 11871.

GAY GUY, ROMANTIC, slim, 40, n/s, active, enjoys a Mozart & rugby seeks: handsome guy (20-30) to share life, love & laughter. Photo please. (Essed). Box No 11872.

Sara Eden
"A file of grateful letters and a wall full of Wedding Photographs"
London 0171-499-9636
Winchester 01753-530350

GUSTO
The dining club for gay men
0171 336 6507

Connect with
all types of women INSTANTLY!
0891 708057

THE DINNER CLUB (Est. '86). The nation's only countryside dining club for single professionals. Tel: 01244 255537. Business opportunities also available. (01244) 548916.

LOOKING FOR A NEW social life? The National Federation of 18 clubs. Groups offers dance, sports, etc. for ages 18-29. Call 0151 821212.

MINI'S EYE INTRODUCTIONS for Kent & London. Tel: 01892 435922.

GAY, 27 YR OLD, prof. male, GSOH. Slim, clean, outgoing, well-read, drinking. Seeks similar male for fun and possible relationship. London area. Box No 11874.

drawing down the moon
The original personalised introduction agency
0171-937 6263

ATTACHED? SEEKING ROMANCE?
We are the QUALITY introduction agency for modern men and women. A fast, efficient, discreet, highly personal service. LONDON 0171 937 6263

across The Room
Sparkling Dinner Dances & Events for all age groups. Herts & Essex • Suffolk. Call Elaine for a friendly chat and free brochure. 01277 352742

PROF. MALE, 24, GSOH, fun-loving, big size with huge heart. Likes sports, singing & music. Seeks a lady for friendship/relationship. Photo essential. London based. Box No 11875.

MALE, MID-20'S, sporty, easygoing. Likes clubbing/socialising. WLM a young attractive female with a GSOH for friendship and possible relationship. London based. Photo essential. Box No 11877.

PROF. F. 44, n/s, attractive, energetic, romantic, unconventional. Seeking tall, slim male, GSOH, smoothy mature, sociable & loving, for harmonious relationship. Photo app. Derby. Box No 11877.

DIVORCED PETITE PROF. female. GSOH, enjoys dining, wine, opera, outdoors, seeks prof. warm male, 40-50 yrs old, for fun & possible relationship. South East region. Photo app. Box No 11878.

INDEPENDENT HEARTS
The Independent Way to Meet New People
By placing an advertisement in the The Independent Hearts section of The Independent and the Independent on Sunday you will immediately be in contact with over 1.6m million readers.
The cost for your advertisement, published in the first available editions of the Saturday "Weekend" and Sunday "Real Life" sections is just £5.00 per line including V.A.T. (Box No is an additional £10.00, please cross here if you do not require a Box No).
Simply write your advertisement in the spaces below and fill in the coupon - Minimum 2 lines.
(N.B. A character is a letter, a number, a punctuation mark and a space between words)

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Telephone (daytime): _____
Signature: _____

All advertisements must be prepaid. Cheques should be made payable to Newspaper Publishing Plc or debit card.

☐ Access ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Diners Club Card expiry date: _____ Card No: _____

Send all advertisements to:
Independent Hearts, The Independent, 19th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Telephone: 0171 293 2347. Fax: 0171 293 2505
This offer is only open to private advertisers. Trade enquiries are welcome on the above telephone number.

NOTICE TO READERS
The Independent cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will.
When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or trusted friend know where you will be.
We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

SUSAN JAMES CLAIRVOYANT
Exclusive Consultations
Immediate readings by post or telephone either by Susan James or her partner David Taylor
Confidentiality guaranteed.
22 Tallpines, Wildwood, Stafford ST17 7QF
TEL: 01785 663671 (2 lines)
As featured on ITV Television

CONGRATULATIONS!!
We are delighted to hear from all the couples who have met and married through INDEPENDENT HEARTS.
Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.

Claire is suffering from breast cancer.
Claire looks perfectly healthy. But she's suffering terribly because last year, breast cancer left her without a mother.
Her story isn't so unusual. Breast Cancer is the single most common cause of death in women aged between 35 and 54 in the UK. All the women who we still don't know how breast cancer develops. Which is why we support and scientists at centres of excellence throughout the country.
Please, please help us to target the cure by funding this vital research. Your donation couldn't be more important. Breast cancer kills 300 women every week in Britain. It also hurts countless families - just like Claire's.
Please help with a credit card donation by calling 0171 404 3955
The Breast Cancer Campaign 111 High Holborn, London WC1V 6JS.
Registered Charity No. 297295

homes & money

Company cars: How much are they worth?..25
Woman for sale? Would you buy a share?.....27
Pensions: What are your rights?.....28

Focus on new developments

Building green houses

By Penny Jackson

One are the days when developers pulverised old buildings into dust to make way for the new. Salvage is big business and it makes commercial as well as environmental sense for builders to recycle as much as possible. At the very least, the unsalvageable is crushed and used as hardcore.

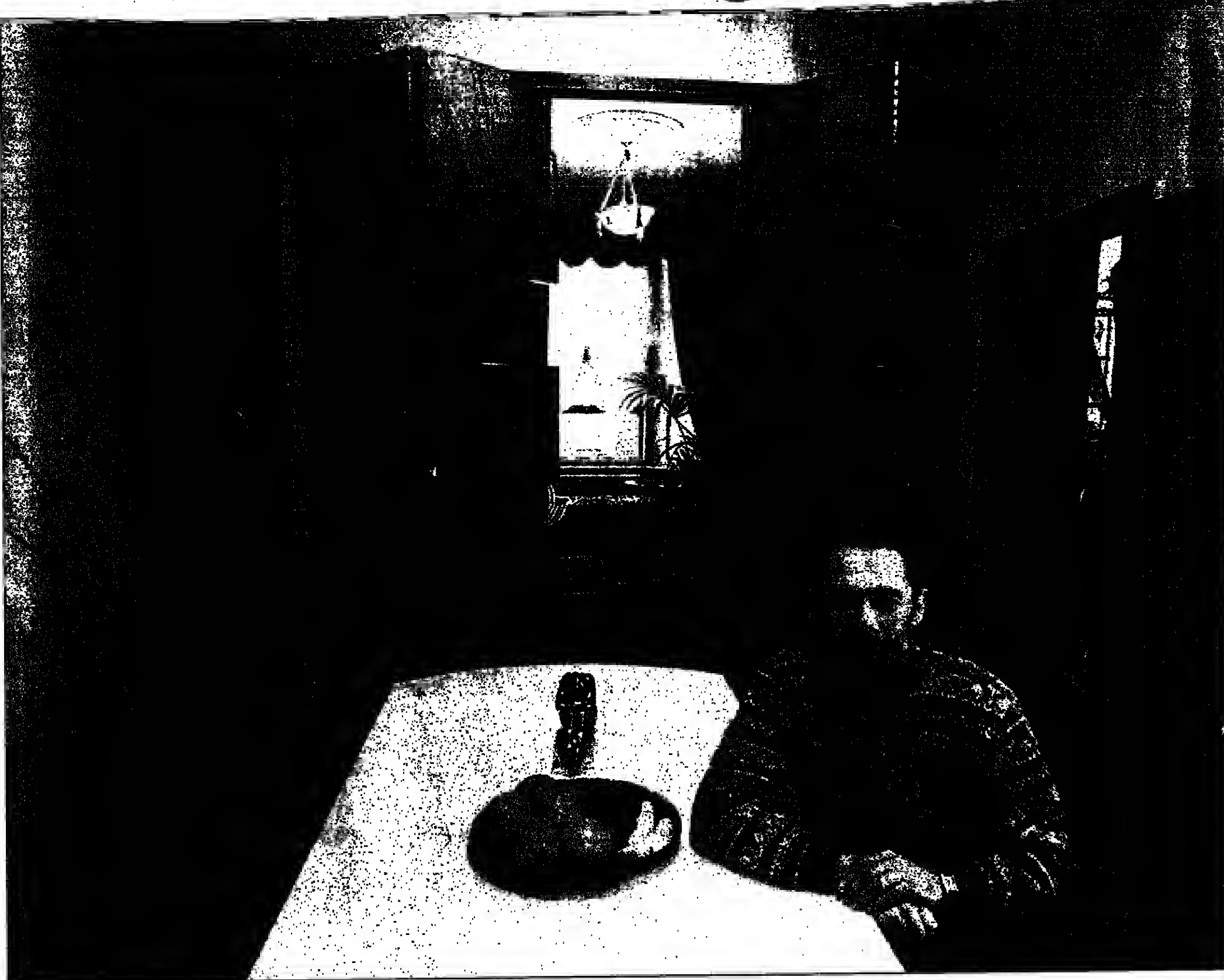
Five years ago, a company such as Lasso Flooring in London had a few regular suppliers of materials, but now, says Tim Sborrock, director, they will get calls out of the blue offering a hundred thousand square feet of floor.

"We do not supply developers who are building from scratch but we do have a big market in warehouse conversions." Only where builders have to comply with stringent planning regulations will they use old materials. It is easier and cheaper, say, to use new York stone, which is cut to an even shape and thickness, than the old irregular flags - however aesthetically pleasing the worn stones are. Even in a conservation area it is not cost effective to use recycled roof slates, of which there are plenty, in preference to good mock slates.

However, some developers are going a fair way down the green road. On its south London site in Earlsfield, Laing Homes decided not only to save almost everything of the Victorian joinery factory that was to make way for 32 houses, but they cleaned and re-laid the old cobbles. "It was more expensive and time-consuming," says Andy Wilkins, marketing manager for Laing Homes South. "We also retained the boundary wall which involved re-pointing and laying a new course on top. It would have been more economical to have knocked it down."

The company, which has links with the World Wide Fund for Nature, also uprooted mature trees from another demolition site and replanted them at Earlsfield. Brown land, which accounts for 75 per cent of Laing's building sites - land which the Government is keen to see developed - offer a potentially rich supply of salvage. The London Yellow stock bricks from the joinery factory were sold for re-use, the handmade clay tiles went to Wales for use in old buildings and the roof timbers, joists and floorboards went to a Nottingham furniture manufacturer.

Laing Homes is, of course, not alone in believing that environmental issues are of importance to purchasers. Redrow Homes, in its development in the grounds of a psychiatric hospital on the fringes of Warrington, took its first step towards mingling new build with the refurbishment of the old. All the bricks, ridges, chimney pots, finials, window frames and tiles from outbuildings were used to restore those parts of the hospital they were keeping. While at Marine Gate, Southsea - which featured the refurbished Eastney Barracks - Redrow used parts of the demolished drill hall such as the steel columns to create new entrance canopies leading into the barracks. In the grounds, new mews- and courtyard-style houses were built in replica materials.



Paul Edmonds is putting his Fulham family home on the market - he hopes to see 100 per cent return on his decorating investment

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN VOOS

Spit, polish and sell

How far should you go in redecorating for the market? By Penny Jackson

In a climate where a London agent can take on a thousand buyers in three weeks, but only 37 houses, there would seem to be little for the vendor to do. On the face of it, circulating the details and awaiting the stampede should be their most onerous task. Yet a grubby, worn-out house still has to be pretty special if it is to reach the full asking price. Most people are prepared to get out the paintbrush for the weekend, but how far should they go, and is it sensible to spend money on a house about to go on to the market?

Paul Edmonds is about to sell his Fulham family house, which was looking very sad. Two children, two dogs and a divorce had not left much time for running repairs and when the house first went on the market early last year the response was not encouraging. Now it is to be relaunched as a rather different creature. "One of the first things I did was to put in a new bathroom. I was told that a house this size needed another. I have had some damp seen to, a new roof put on the hay and all the front elevation done," says Paul. "It did look a bit of a wreck, half

stripped, with paint peeling off. It also used to be pink; now it is magnolia." It is over the use of colour that Paul Edmonds has had to swallow hardest. In order to have the widest appeal he has neutralised his taste. As a London hairdresser with his own Knightsbridge salon, he uses colour, shapes and textures to create a particular atmosphere, just as he did in his home.

"It was a bit of a 'designer' house. The agent used the phrase 'niche market'. We have a green kitchen with bare plaster walls. There are wavy wooden doors between the dining and sitting rooms, which she called 'interesting'. I have changed colours such as soft purple and pale oyster pink to beige. I stuck with the lilac walls and curtains in a reception room, though, because it does look good. I am not sure whether to go as far as replacing the boiler."

One lesson Paul claims to have learned for life is that a clutter-free house is a joy to live in. "My daughters are on their third clear-out. It is painful, but I shall keep a beady eye on clutter from now on. The house looks so spacious."

He has even brought the principles of feng shui, the ancient Chinese science of organising your space for the best energy flow, to bear on the buyers. "There are no sharp edges as you enter the house, just a curved shelf and a curved mirror. I am using mirrors to give a sense of space and light."

It may be a little late to create a welcoming home by putting the right things in the right place, but most vendors can take simple measures to set their homes above the ordinary. Rebecca Read of Cluttons has no doubt that buyers can be seduced at first sight - in her words, they should have their heartstrings tweaked. The trouble is that they are just as likely to stumble into darkened rooms with unmade beds and a kitchen full of dirty plates, as into a sweet-smelling nest.

"I have been known to make a bed and tidy up myself. It is amazing how many people leave the curtains closed and the place in a mess. And most houses smell of something. There's nothing like a good scented candle."

There are some standard things to do, she says, which cost nothing. Clean the

windows and take down the net curtains - they make a room look as though it has its eyes shut. Box up all the clutter and children's toys; clean the carpets and sweep the garden. Even at this time of the year there is no need for miserable-looking pots with dead plants. Sometimes, spending a little money is wise.

"A client who had been unable to sell his home in Victoria Square, behind Buckingham Palace, took it off the market before Christmas to smarten it up," Rebecca Read continues. "He did an amazing job in the hall with smart wallpaper and a dodo rail, and put a slatted blind over a window that had a dismal view. The property has sold within weeks for the full asking price of £550,000."

Giles Underhill, manager of Foxtons, Battersea, advises that the stronger the market, the less you will get for your efforts, because people are happy to secure almost any property. He also warns that if you fiddle around for a few months in a rising market, you could find that prices have risen by 5 per cent. "If everything is lovely, but you haven't got round to fitting a new bathroom suite,

then do it, and the house can be sold as immaculately presented and priced accordingly. But if you have a tired family home with dinosaurs scribbled on the walls, then it is not worth doing anything. We sold a house in Clapham for £420,000, beautifully fitted out by a developer. The buyer didn't like it, and threw everything out."

Mr Underhill does make the point that it is worth spending money on flats likely to attract first-time buyers. It is usually easier for them to arrange a mortgage for an extra £10,000 than it is to find £5,000 in cash to smarten it up.

Country houses can also benefit from some pre-sale cosmetic treatment. For a start, the agents John D Wood suggest a fresh load of gravel would make the drive appealingly crunchy. They also suggested recently to a client in Winchester that his bilious pink house might be a bit of a sticking-point. When nicely beige, it sold within 10 days.

Meanwhile back in London Paul Edmonds is setting about choosing an agent. He expects to see 100 per cent return on his decorating expenses.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

property • residential

FAX: 0171 293 2505

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>East Anglia</p> <p>NORFOLK £275,000 01493 332331</p> <p>To advertise in this section please call the Property Team on 0171 293 2343/2302.</p> | <p>France</p> <p>FOCUS ON FRANCE France Magazine. For your free copy call 0181 542 0088</p> <p>Why wait to move house to pay less for buildings insurance?</p> <p>TRY US DIRECT ON 0800 444 777</p> <p>AA Home Insurance</p> | <p>Overseas Property</p> <p>FLORIDA NUMBER 1 ORLANDO AND GULF COAST PILGRIM ASSOCIATES (UK) LICENSED FLORIDA REAL ESTATE BROKERS TEL/FAX (UK) 0181 5157 7000 - E MAIL: 1003@PILGRIM.COM</p> <p>Services</p> <p>SPANISH DREAMS ALMERIA The Real Spain FINCAS, FARMHOUSES, COUNTRY VILLAGES AND TOWN HOUSES. FROM ONLY £4,000 New Lakeside Villas from £55,000 inc. plot. Full information pack from: WESSEX HOMES (EUROPE) 01323 733320</p> | <p>Overseas Property</p> <p>FRENCH PROPERTY EXHIBITION ADMISSION FREE 31ST JANUARY - 2ND FEBRUARY 1997 FRI. 11.00 AM TO 7.00 PM. SAT. 10.00 AM TO 6.00 PM. SUN. 10.00 AM TO 5.00 PM. THE EXHIBITION CENTRE, NOVOTEL, 1 SHORTLANDS, HAMMERSMITH, LONDON W6 Organised by: FRENCH PROPERTY NEWS 2a Lambton Road, London SW20 0LR. Telephone: 0181 944 5500 BRITAIN'S BIGGEST & BEST EXHIBITIONS FOR HOMES IN FRANCE</p> <p>Spain</p> <p>Don't miss our 'Move or Improve' feature on Saturday 1st February.</p> <p>WELSH TIMESHARE from £595 END OF PROJECT SAVE £1000s All purchases include 10% discount on the purchase price. All purchases include 10% discount on the purchase price. All purchases include 10% discount on the purchase price. 01597 825352 Fax 860646</p> | <p>Overseas Property</p> <p>BUYING ABROAD? The spring overseas property exhibition at: The Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1. Friday 7th, Saturday 8th, Sunday 9th February 1997 Friday 12.00-18.00 Sat/Sun 10.30-17.00 Over 50 top Agents and Developers from Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Florida & the USA - and more - will be displaying their properties.</p> <p>10,000+ PROPERTIES AND BUSINESSES FOR SALE IN OVER 100 LOCATIONS WITHIN 23 COUNTRIES Bahrain, Canada, Cayman Islands, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Florida, France, Gran Canaria, Greece, Guernsey, Ireland, Italy, La Palma, Lanzarote, Majorca, Malta, Menorca, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Tenerife, Turkey and the Caribbean, United States of America. PRICES FROM £12,000 - £10,000,000 HYRAS PROPERTIES (OVERSEAS) Old Bank House, 1 High Street, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9AD Tel: +44 (0) 1903 88 46 63 Fax: +44 (0) 1903 73 25 54 Agents required worldwide</p> |
|--|--|--|--|--|

صكنا من الدليل

Home and away at the Archers

Rosalind Adams is on the move on-air and off. By Rosalind Russell

The lowing of 40 Friesians isn't a sound commonly heard across the soot capped peaks of north London. Unless, of course, it comes from the radios of *Archers* fans tuning in for the next fix. Swapping a terraced house with hankie-sized garden in the city for an old farmhouse in the country is an enduring fantasy. Eavesdropping on the village gossip in *The Archers* provides only a vicarious thrill. Many of the actors who appear in the long-running radio soap - it's 46 years old this month - actually live the life, in pretty cottages around Stratford within easy reach of the BBC's Pheasant Mill studios in Birmingham.

Not Rosalind Adams. As Clarrie Grundy, she faces the threat of eviction from Grange Farm, Ambridge, along with husband Eddie, and being crucially parted from her old Rayburn. As herself, she lives in London but would dearly like to move to the country. She's just not sure which country. With her highgate house on the market at £212,500 through the local agent, Benham and Reeves, and a buyer interested, deciding on where to live next has become pressing.

"You get such a lot more for your money in France," says Rosalind. "I fancied buying a house in Normandy, though it would make it more difficult to get to Birmingham for the six-days-a-month recording of *The Archers*."

Normandy is a good bet. Prices there have dropped 30 per cent since 1990, says Miles Barber, of Barbers Estate Agency, which specialises in French property.

"There aren't masses of little cottages around," he warns, "but £100,000 will buy a beautiful, four-bedroom farmhouse with an acre of land. If you can afford £200,000 upwards, you can get a baby château." One of the prettiest regions, says Miles, is Calvados country, an hour's drive from either Le Havre or Caen. Unlike other areas in winter, it has no boring brown ploughed fields. The meadows and apple orchards are always green, dotted with creamy Charolais cows.

Fraser Blake, who runs the Normandy-based property agency Splendid Isolation, near Bagnies-de-l'Orne, claims the region is like Britain used to be in the Fifties.

"It's still possible to leave your car unlocked, travel for days without encountering job behaviour and, frankly, to live in peace and harmony with everyone you meet."

He adds that at least 60 per cent of British clients mention aggressive attitudes in the UK as one of their reasons for moving across the Channel. This is true for Rosalind Adams.



She may play Carrie Grundy in 'The Archers', but in reality actress Rosalind Adams is a city dweller looking for a place in the country JULIA KURTZ

"I get fed up with London and I'm worried about crime, although nothing has ever happened to me," she says. "I never go out by myself at night unless it's in a taxi. I need to be somewhere I can leave the back door open and not worry about someone coming in; where I can have a cup of tea in the garden in my nightie without neighbours seeing me; where I can hear the birds."

So far she hasn't swapped her Grange Farm Friesians for Charolais, despite having got as far as making lots of appointments with French estate agents.

"On the morning we were to go, we woke up, turned on the news and heard the Channel Tunnel was on fire. So we went to Majorca instead."

Hampshire is plan B. "I used to live near Winchester in a sweet little cottage opposite a mill at the end of a lane. I had a friend nearby who ran a watercress farm. My chap came down to visit and was horrified to find ice on the inside of the windows, as you do in the country. Where he comes from, in Romania, they might have the odd dictator, but they do

bave efficient central heating."

Hampshire is not cheap. Prices in favoured towns and villages such as Chawton, Odiham, Selborne and Alresford held stubbornly steady during the recession. However, for the price of a smart, three-bedroom London terrace, you can still buy a teacosy cottage with a thatched roof and a sizeable garden. A typical two-bedroom thatched cottage will cost from £185,000. And you can go shopping by steam train. The Watercress line still runs between Alresford and Alton.

Rosalind Adams is wavering. She'd like her chap, to keep on his London flat, but to come round to the idea of living partly in the country. An impressive linguist, she can even try persuading him in his own language.

"I do speak Romanian; it's not difficult like Slav. Thank God I didn't fall in love with a Bulgarian."

Barbers Estate Agents 0171-221 0555; Splendid Isolation 00-33-2-43 03 09 21; In Hampshire, local agents Hill & Morrison 01256 702892

Best of three weekend retreats



Keeper's Cottage is buried in a deep, wooded valley in the Cotswolds, at the end of a long and unmade track. It was built as a gamekeeper's cottage to Lyplatt Park, near Eastcombe, Gloucestershire. The three-bedroom stone cottage stands in half-an-acre of grounds. A stream runs through the garden where there are apple, plum, walnut and damson trees. In spring, there are masses of daffodils and snowdrops. The house has been recently extended to include a conservatory. There are other properties within sight, but at some distance away. £180,000 through Hamptons (01285 654535).



Close to the water's edge, between Beaulieu and Bucklers Hard, lies 2 Yachtsmans Cabin. It's reached via a gravel track and is hidden by trees. The house is upside down, to take advantage of the view: the two bedrooms are downstairs; the sitting room upstairs. Sliding doors lead from the sitting room to a large sun deck, providing views of the Beaulieu river and woodland. Outside there's a large sail store and parking for three cars. Security shutters are fitted to every outside door and window, making it ideal to lock up and leave. £185,000 through Paul Jackson (01590 674411).



The Old Forge at Easton Royal, in Wiltshire, has gardens backing on to open farmland. The house is grade II listed, with recently replaced thatch, central heating and kitchen, and is close to the Savernake Forest. There are three bedrooms but one is tiny - 7ft 9in square - so would repel hordes of envious, would-be weekend guests. The sitting room has a wood-burning stove, wooden floorboards and beamed ceiling. Three miles from Pewsey, where the high-speed train to Paddington takes 70 minutes. £155,000 through Knight Frank (01488 682726).

TEL: 0171 293 2222

property • residential

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Overseas Property

Enjoy the best things in life

A second home in a delightful French resort

There's a place in France where nature prevails. Where you can find peace and tranquility in an ideal climate. Endless beaches and beautiful forests. Aquitaine. Among the trees, bordering on its own golf course, your comfortable "vacance" villa can be waiting for you. With swimming pool, garden, tennis, and a big lake within a short distance. You won't find anywhere more beautiful so close to home.

Between Bordeaux and Biarritz. Drive there in one day, by train in 2 hours. • Near an attractive resort on the Atlantic Ocean. • Your second home can grow around you. Start with a single story, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room with fireplace, barbecue etc. add later perhaps conservatory with winter garden or private swimming pool, guest suite etc. • Imaginative use of glass, wood and stone ensures the villa blends into its surroundings.

Make an appointment to pay the area a visit and see a show villa.

Care-free, desirable property and 'free' holidays, extra income and tax-deductible too.

A 2nd home in a top resort - at this location - means capital gain and a trouble-free property. Everything is done for you. Your villa can be rented out if you wish, providing a considerable, new source of income. A holiday home can also be a very attractive option for tax purposes.

European Villa Sales Ltd.

Tel: 01223 514241 Fax: 01223 562712

NERJA - FOUR OWNERS SCHEME

Chumbers Hill the finest location near beach, views over sea, mountains and farmland. Secure freehold with own pool, fully furnished, sat tv, etc.

£12,500 - £39,000

Other Properties: Coast/Inland New/Ressale Villas. Farms, David Scott International, Deerpark House, Epping Road, Roydon, Harlow Essex CM19 5DA.

Tel 01279 792162

FOPDAC Member

Country Property

NR MALBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE. Wing of Country Manor House to let. 4 Bed. Garden and Garage. £300 p.w. 01753 810244.

Docklands

ALASKA (SEI)

Bright and spacious one bed Art Deco style flat in sought after building. South facing garden views. Parking available.

£95,000

0973 83 00 43 (mobile)

Wanted

CHANNEL 4 MOVING PEOPLE

This popular Channel 4 programme is looking for people to feature in the next series. Whatever your circumstances, if you're moving anytime between now and April then we'd love to hear from you. Please call 0171 580 8636.

Auctions

Major Property Auctions

Mainly By Order of The Mortgagees including the Halifax Building Society

NORTHERN

29th January - Haydock Park Racecourse - 0839 772281

110 Lots

Ce Durham, North West/South Yorkshire, Tyne & Wear, Lancs, Cumbria, Cheshire, Northumberland, Gwynedd, Merseyside, Gt Manchester and Humberside

MIDLANDS

30th January - NEC, Birmingham - 0839 772282

30 Lots

Shropshire, Warwickshire, Staffs, West Midlands, Derby, Notts, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Hereford & Worcester, Lincs, Oxon and Worcestershire

Call to the member card system For a useful list of other agents a long call will be made for further information. Further calls charged 01793 01999. (Within evening and weekends. Office in Floor Office, 14th Grosvenor Road, Southsea, Hants PO5 3SD)

SOTOGRADE

Beautifully located 1st floor apartment, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, south facing balcony overlooking gardens and sea in the Puerto Sotograde exclusive estate. Access to marina, shops, restaurants etc. (Ryder Cup 97).

£87,500

Tel: 0171 616 3100

Mr Walton

Midlands

WARWICK PARK COURT

The latest development from Central Homes plc. It is situated on the Warwick Road in Solihull and consists of 20 apartments and 2 two bed bungalows. Prices range from £84,950 to £99,950.

Also Available

Henley-in-Arden - A luxury development of 8 two bed apartments and 4 two bed town houses set within an enclosed courtyard accessed via electronic entrance gates. Prices from £79,950 to £95,950

The Willows, Doge Lane Croft, Acocks Green. Only 1 four bedroom detached house left in this exclusive development. Competitively priced at £109,950

Newhall Hill, City Centre, Birmingham. A development of 32 apartments containing a mixture of one and two beds with secure car parking. Prices from £59,950

The Hawthorns, Hazel Avenue, Sutton Coldfield. The last two remaining three bedroom detached houses and in a quiet residential location. Priced at £74,950

CELEBRITY HOMES PLC 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London W1A 3AB Tel: 020 7462 2222 Fax: 020 7462 2222

New Homes

FOR PEOPLE OF VISION

OVER 80% SOLD

Da Vinci HOUSE

44 SAFFRON HILL, LONDON EC1

Generously-sized loft-style apartments, full of natural light. Fully fitted kitchens and bathrooms. Show apartment open weekends 11am to 3pm (tel: 0171-831 5868). Mid-week appointments through Copping Joyce. Prices from £165,000.

COPPING JOYCE

0171-359 9777 or 0171-836 2888

Sell your home for as little as £50 per advertisement

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Advertise your property through the Independent on Sunday's highly successful Property Gallery; a marketplace that is tried, tested and works. The advertisement appears in the module format shown here, with 40 words of copy complemented by a full colour photograph of your home.

The Cost

The more Sundays you book, the cheaper the cost per ad:-

1 x Sunday advertisement costs £95

2 x Sunday advertisements cost £130 (£65 each)

3 x Sunday advertisements cost £150 (£50 each)

Fill in the coupon below and send payment, a colour photograph and up to 40 words of copy to: The Property Team, Classified Advertising, 19th Floor, Independent Newspaper, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

Deadline for receipt of copy/photo is the Tuesday 12 days prior to Sunday publication. Offer open to private advertisers only. Commercial advertising packages available on request.

NAME..... TELEPHONE (daytime).....

ADDRESS.....

I require ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 (tick appropriate box) Sunday Advertisement(s) at a total cost of £.....

Please enclose a cheque for this amount made payable to 'Newspaper Publishing Plc' or fill in your Visa/Access/Amex/Diners Club details:

CREDIT CARD NO..... EXPIRY DATE..... SIGNATURE.....

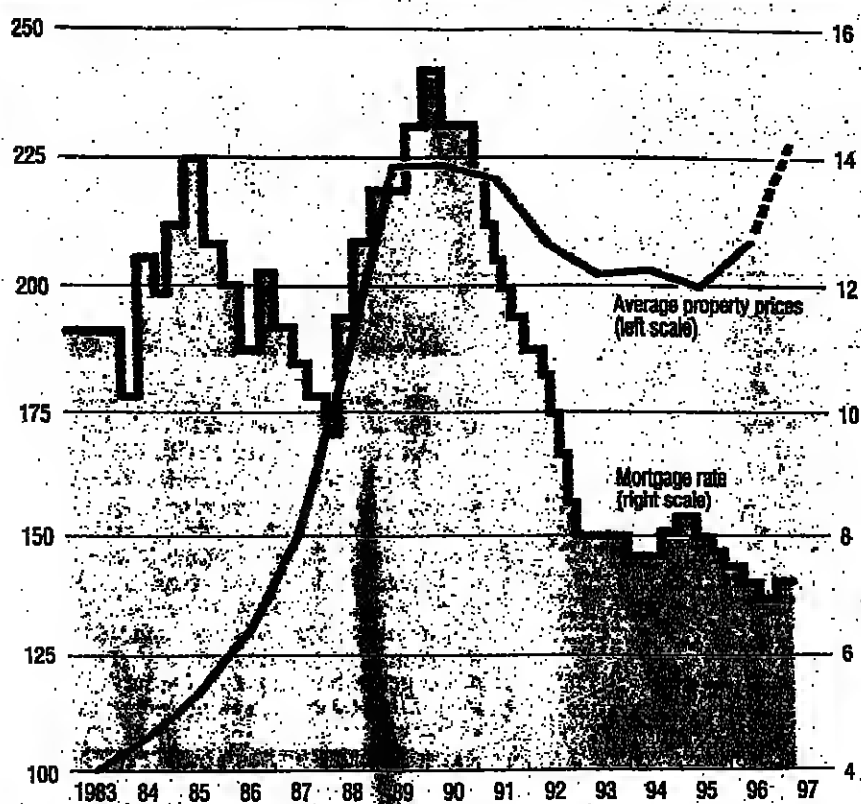
For advice or more information please call 'The Property Team' on 0171-293 2343 or 0171-293 2302

NR LEICESTER

Immaculate three bed apartment in former 16th C Leige 14 miles (on road) from city centre. South facing lounge with fireplace, conservatory, garden, garage, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, dining area. Small detached garage. Small garden. £74,950 o.n.o. Day: 0171 293 2343

Mortgage rates vs property prices

Mortgage rate %, property prices indexed 1983=100



The return of gazumping

Are prices about to go through the roof? By Clifford German

Mortgage lenders are forecasting property prices will rise by 7-8 per cent again this year and maybe the same again in 1998. Estate agents are hoping prices will soar even faster, starting a scramble to buy which will drive up prices and sales volume and multiply the commission they earn. Forecasts of prices rising by double figures are not difficult to find, especially in London and the commuter belts round Birmingham and Manchester.

But the buying public still says it is not convinced that prices will escalate or that there is any need to rush to buy this year. A straw poll of over 100 potential borrowers who contacted First Mortgage, one of the direct-selling lenders, last week showed that they only expect property prices to rise by 2 per cent this year if the Conservatives win the next election, and by 2.5 per cent if new Labour wins.

There is a certain element of wish fulfilment in any forecast made by borrowers. Some of them will be first-time

buyers with no property to sell, while the vast majority of the others will be borrowers who are planning to trade up in the market rather than down. None of them wants to see property prices accelerating, not at least until they are safely on a higher rung of the ladder. So their scepticism is understandable.

If they hold their nerve it suggests that buyers are still hoping to avoid an unseemly stampede and the widespread gazumping which will follow, at least in England and Wales. The question is, will they succeed in facing down sellers who are looking for windfall profits to intensify their own comfort factors?

It is a crucial test of the way the housing market will develop, this year and next. Past experience shows that if prices start rising by 10 per cent a year or more, and property becomes more valuable than its cash value then gazumping will become widespread. At the moment it is only a local phenomenon but the signs are not good.

In the early stages of previous house

price booms supply and demand have been in rough balance. This time round it seems that many sellers have been keeping their property off the market, at least until they feel they have recouped the paper losses on their properties during the recession and prices are back to peak 1990 levels. So demand can quickly exceed supply and start a spiral.

If buyers are wrong in their assessment, prices continue to rise, boom conditions spread to the less dynamic regions and gazumping becomes commonplace again, it will mean that despite widespread pressure for reform, a six-year window, when it would have been possible to ban gazumping without too much of an outcry from sellers denied their chance to hold buyers to ransom, has now closed.

While increased rates on offer to savers are catching the eye this week, there are signs that some lenders are not waiting to see whether Eddie

George succeeds in convincing Chancellor Clarke that the national interest demands another rise in interest rates before the election. Birmingham Midshires, currently the ninth-largest building society, has unilaterally increased its standard variable lending rate from 7.24 per cent to 7.39 per cent for both new and existing borrowers with effect from yesterday. It lifts the society above the general level of converting societies like Halifax and well above dedicated mutuals like Nationwide and Yorkshires. It may well be seen as an indicator that the society has given up the fight to stay mutual.

Yorkshire has ruled out an increase on its current 6.94 per cent rate, but Ipswich BS is going up from 6.99 per cent to 7.24 per cent next month. If this does turn out to be the start of a general rise in rates it is unlikely to be the last this year, and the only consolation for intending borrowers is that it could eventually slow the upturn in property prices.

Election PEP

returns 140% of stockmarket growth.

So it's not just for conservative investors.

The 6 point Election PEP pledge

1. ELECTION PROTECTION

Smooths out short-term volatility

2. PROFIT SAFEGUARD

Helps protect your gains

3. MARKET GROWTH +40%

Market growth plus an extra 40% of that rise

4. CAPITAL SECURE

If the market falls you will receive your money back

5. TAX FREE \$9,000 PEP

Fully qualifies as both a general and single company PEP

6. NO TRANSFER FEE

Switch to the Election PEP and lock-in your gains

With the stockmarket at near record levels and a general election looming, share prices could be in for a bit of a rollercoaster ride. To avoid the financial ups and downs invest in an Election PEP from Legal & General. Its unique averaging system gives your investment a smoother ride.

At the end of five years, the Election PEP not only gives you stockmarket growth linked to the FTSE 100 Index, it also returns a generous bonus of 40% of that growth. However, should the market have fallen, you will receive your money back. What's more, you can invest up to \$9,000 tax free.

Stockmarket growth is based on the difference between the average level of the FTSE 100 Index in the first 12 months and the average level of the Index in the last 12 months. Minimum investment \$3,000. This is not a guaranteed investment. Returns depend on investments with major banks and building societies and in the unlikely event of them being unable to meet their obligations, the benefits will fall short of those mentioned. These benefits are dependent on the investment being held for five years. The value of your investment before then may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. The benefits are based on our understanding of current taxation in the United Kingdom and Ireland and are subject to statutory change. The value of tax relief will depend on your individual circumstances. Full written details are available on request.

Legal & General (Direct) Limited. Registered in England No. 2702090. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TE Representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name.

Internet address: <http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk>

Post to: Legal & General (Direct) Limited, FREEPOST SWC0467, Cardiff CF1 1YW

Please send me details of the Legal & General Election PEP.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____ Forenames _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Tel No: Home _____ Work _____ Date of Birth _____

If you already have a PEP investment please tick here ☐ We may telephone you to make sure information you requested has arrived safely. Now and then we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information please tick here ☐

B1DJ02

Legal & General

Your questions answered

Bryan Fisher on how to pick a PEP for windfalls from building society conversions



Q: I shall get several sets of free shares from building societies converting to banks this year. I do not want to sell the shares. Can I simply put them into a personal equity plan (PEP) even though I have not actually paid cash for them, and if so how do I set about it?

A C, Huddersfield

A: It is certainly possible to put your free shares from the building society conversions into a personal equity plan. The Inland Revenue has, in fact, even given a concession that these shares can be in addition to the normal annual £6,000 general and £3,000 single-company PEP allowances, provided the shares are put into a PEP within 42 days of allocation. There are, however, other rules which you have to be careful not to break. You are only allowed to use the services of one PEP manager per financial year. Thus if you already have either a single-company or general PEP the same manager has to be used. However, not all managers are able to provide this facility. This will need to be clarified therefore with the plan manager.

The individual building societies converting will offer their own single-company PEP plans but if you have more than one set of shares then you will have to use a manager who can handle both unit trusts and shares under a PEP wrapper. If you have made no previous PEP arrangement in the 1996/97 tax year then obviously you must consider the package that will be offered by the building society you are an investor in or borrowing member of.

The charging structure is the only concern when selecting a suitable plan manager for your single-company PEP. This is very different from a general PEP where there is a fund to manage, and the performance of the manager is a more important factor. Therefore make sure you shop around to locate the cheapest company for the shares you wish to PEP.

All the building societies converting will send details of how to put your shares into a PEP before the shares are issued. If you need guidance on the PEP managers able to accept additional single company shares you

should consult your independent financial adviser, as there are several to choose from and the charges vary.

On a more general note, I would advise you to seek professional advice and discuss the merits of holding direct equities, especially in companies such as Halifax PLC. This discussion will ideally examine the tax implications (income and capital gains) to you personally. Also, as you are aware, the price of equities can fall as well as rise and you therefore have to appreciate fully the risks involved. Having said that, certainly the institutional demand for these equities will no doubt be very strong.

Halifax shares are likely to enter the FTSE 100 fairly high up and will no doubt perform well, as other financial institutions have done of late.

There will certainly be plenty of activity within the market this year with the conversion of Halifax, Northern Rock, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester. It is estimated that the share value of just these four institutions will top the £20bn mark. No doubt many people will choose to take the money and run, which will give a short-term injection of the "good old feel-good factor".

By the turn of the century there will be many more building societies following a similar path. I would suggest therefore, if you have spare funds following the current crop of share allocations, it may still be worth speculating on who is likely to be next. With this in mind I would suggest that you place a deposit with a broad spread of building societies in your own high street.

As with all investments do not put all of your eggs into one basket. But make sure you choose an account that qualifies you as a member and bear in mind some societies accept members with as little as £100; others have raised the minimum qualifying investment to as much as £2,000.

Bryan Fisher is financial planning manager at Berkeley Financial Planning in Coventry. Readers are very welcome to put their questions to him. Letters should not exceed 250 words please.

Imping

By Clifford Germa

The lady herself may have quietened down, but the ripples from the Nicola Horlick affair are clearly still spreading. Ten days after the fund manager's melodramatic walk-out from Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, the issues raised by her going are a long way from being resolved. It has been a riveting spectacle for those outside the City, but it is not the kind of thing that does the reputation of the investment management industry any good at all.



Jonathan Davis

'It is too easy for "star" managers to start believing their own publicity and forget they are in a service business where the client should come first'

In a business where discretion is unsurprisingly held at a big premium, her extravagant behaviour, galumphing off to Germany to confront her bosses with the world's media in tow, seems to represent a quite remarkable lapse in judgement for someone with so successful a career behind her.

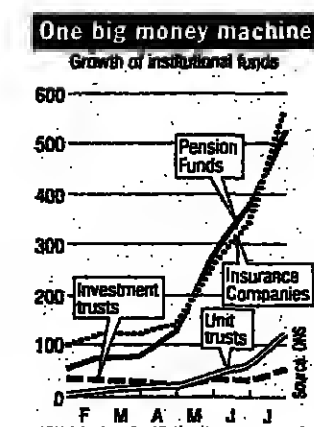
So bizarre, in fact, do her antics seem that some of her counterparts at other companies were even questioning this week whether she can still be in her right mind. Of course, in a way that is a convenient response. Many of the questions her departure raises are ones that

affect the whole industry, not just a single besieged firm. It suits the rest of the industry to cast her, if they can, as a loose cannon.

The key questions for investors are: where does her departure leave Morgan Grenfell in the investment management business? Is any fund manager, however good, worth the kind of money she was said to be earning? And is the

emergence of a "star" system in fund management really an appropriate development, given the nature of the business?

As far as Morgan Grenfell is concerned, the jury is still out. Coming so soon after the Peter Young disaster, Deutsche Bank faces an uphill struggle to hold its business together. Although the rest of Mrs Horlick's team are said to be loyal



to the firm, and its recent performance record remains good, it will require a large marketing effort to convince pension fund trustees and potential clients that the business has not been terminally damaged.

Morgan Grenfell has done exceptionally well in pension fund management and its unit trust performance was improving until the wheels came off its European fund

last summer. The strength and weakness of its asset management business is that it has grown so rapidly. It only moved into fund management in the 1980s. Rather than grow its own fund managers, it has built a strong market position by buying in established names. In that sense, it is the Newcastle United, not the Liverpool, of the modern money management game.

Unlike, say, Schroders or Mercury Asset Management, which have mostly grown their own stars and tried to bind them in for the long term, Morgan Grenfell has much shallower roots than its competitors. After its succession of recent mishaps, there have to be big question marks over its management competence and its operational culture. It will be some time before it wins any more new clients.

The question of an individual fund manager's worth is rather easier to answer. As my chart shows, institutional fund management has grown so fast in the past 15 years that it has become a very lucrative business indeed (and one, incidentally, where Britain has

happily established a genuinely strong competitive advantage). Helped by the rampant bull market, assets under management have grown six-fold in real terms since 1980, according to an official report this month. Fund managers' earnings now contribute roughly 0.4 per cent to the country's GDP.

It is a fiercely competitive business where performance counts for nearly everything. Any firm that has a good track record over three years or more can expect to win a big chunk of any new business that comes along. Fund management firms are paid on a percentage of the assets they manage, so any genuinely outstanding individual can - just as now happens in football - command a very high personal income and still be worth employing.

So if Mrs Horlick was as good a fund manager as she has been made out to be, then it is quite easy, in strictly economic terms, to justify the £1m or so a year she is reported to have been paid. Was she that good? By all accounts, quite probably. But the vast majority of fund

managers do not outperform the market as a whole over more than a three to five-year period, and a large number quite sensibly do not even try very hard to do so.

As long as the demand for out-performance is there, then the "star" system in fund management is bound to persist. It is the marketplace at work. Nobody can quibble with that. But it is all too easy for "star" managers to start believing their own publicity and forget that they are in a service business where the client should always come first. As Barings discovered, strong brand names in this field are hard won, but easily lost.

The other point is that the line between relative success and relative failure in this business, perhaps more than any other, is gossamer thin. Luck, as well as skill, has a big part to play in it. Warren Buffett, the great US investor, says that fund management is 75 per cent marketing and only 25 per cent genuine performance. In their different ways, Mrs Horlick and Morgan Grenfell may have rediscovered, to their cost, how very true that is.

Getting mileage from company cars

Christine Murphy examines the benefits

The days when a company Jag was the perfect tax-free benefit are long gone. Some employees now think they are more trouble than they are worth, even though more than 60 per cent of company car drivers say they are happy to continue with them.

However, things may be changing. The number of companies offering the choice of cash instead of a car rose from 37 per cent in the tax year 1994/95 to 54 per cent in 1995/96. Taking cash to buy your own car is now a viable alternative.

The main cost of a company car is the income tax charged on the assumed value of the benefit you receive, which in turn depends on the age and value of the car and how much of the mileage is genuinely on company business.

The Inland Revenue's current rules require the benefit to be taxed in full if drivers do less than 2,500 miles a year on business. Above 2,500 miles and up to 18,000 miles, which covers the vast majority of company car users, the taxable benefit is estimated at 23.33 per cent of the list price and the driver is taxed on this at his or her marginal rate.

Insurance charges are usually paid by the company and are included in the taxable value of the car itself, and fuel for business use is tax-free but the assumed value of any free fuel you use for private motoring is taxable.

Despite the tax charges, many are still attracted by the fact that you do not have to spend your own money or get a loan to buy a car. When your car is off the road after an accident, a replacement car may be offered free of charge

| On the road: comparative costs | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Tax on company cars (BMW 520) | | | |
| 1995/96 | list price = | £21,020 x 23.33% x 40% = | £1,962 tax |
| 1994/95 | list price = | £20,150 x 23.33% x 40% = | £1,881 tax |
| 1993/94 | scale change = | £4,800 x 40% = | £1,920 tax |
| 1992/93 | scale change = | £4,440 x 40% = | £1,776 tax |
| Running costs of a private car | | | |
| Finance cost 20% | | | £4,000 |
| Depreciation | | | £8,000 |
| Running costs (servicing, tyres) | | | £1,680 |
| Fuel | | | £2,448 |
| Licence | | | £270 |
| Insurance | | | £900 |
| AA | | | £125 |
| Total costs | | | £17,823 |
| Less costs recovered | (1,500 x 2 x 61p) | | (£1,815) |
| Total cost over 2 years | | | £16,008 |
| Cost per annum | | | £7,804 |
| Gross up for tax at 40% | (x 100/60) = | | £12,840 |
| Less income tax on company car | | | £2,943 |
| Excess cost of private car | | | £9,897 p.a. |

and the insurance is included. Many company car users drive a more luxurious car than they would if it was privately owned.

In order to decide whether to take a company car or take cash and buy your own car you need to know not just the taxable benefit on a company car. You also need to reckon up how much it costs to buy and run a private car which you can also use for work and how much your employer will contribute to help you.

Obvious costs of private motoring include depreciation, ie cost price less current resale value, on the value of the vehicle you purchase; and interest on any money you borrow or the interest you give up by using your own money to buy the vehicle.

They also include the cost (and hassle) of replacing items such as tyres, the MOT, insurance, fuel, oil, servicing, the tax disc, and membership of a breakdown service.

In the table we have estimated the annual costs for an employee who owns a BMW car (series 520) that is occasionally used for business purposes as £9,897. We have assumed it is resold after two years for £16,000, the average annual mileage is 12,000, of which business use is 1,600. The car is bought with a personal loan of £20,000, estimated to cost £4,000 over a two-year period. Fuel costs average 60p per litre and the car does 30 miles per gallon. Insurance is estimated at £400 per annum. Servicing costs are estimated at 7p per mile. Against this the employer pays Fixed Profit Car Scheme mileage allowance of 61p per mile.

Of course your employer may offer extra salary, business mileage payments or a loan to buy a private car. All of these have tax implications, however, and need to be structured in the most tax efficient way.

A survey of 41 random companies showed that cash alternatives varied according to the size of the company and their motives in offering a cash alternative. Larger companies paid between £8,290 and £11,166. Medium companies offered £5,520-£9,600, and smaller companies even less, between £4,200 and £8,968.

As our table shows, 45-50 per cent of the capital cost is required so the employee is no worse off. Any rates below that show the varying degrees of determination by the company to encourage the cash option.

The choice very much depends on the assumptions you have made regarding the level of business mileage which you expect to drive, the level of private mileage; and the effect of buying a slightly cheaper model or older car if you provide your own car. Christine Murphy is a tax specialist at Coopers & Lybrand (01895 273333).

Are you paying too much tax?

The Government gives you a full TAX-FREE allowance when you save £25 a month with a friendly society

10 reasons to start saving from £10 a month with Homeowners:

1. Tax-free investment growth potential
2. Tax-free lump sum payout
3. Growth potential of the stock market
4. Life cover up to £2250 included
5. Deal directly with a reputable organisation
6. Invest with confidence - around £570,000,000 already managed
7. Free gift Marks & Spencer voucher, slimline phone or luggage set
8. Statutory 14 day money-back guarantee
9. Free information pack (no obligation)
10. Free Sheaffer pen just for enquiring

FREE SHEAFFER PEN FOR ALL ENQUIRERS

When you start saving you will automatically be given life cover up to £2250. NO MEDICAL REQUIRED. You'll also have a choice of FREE GIFT - a £10 Marks & Spencer gift voucher, a slimline phone or 2-piece luggage set.

For more information call freefone 0800 210270

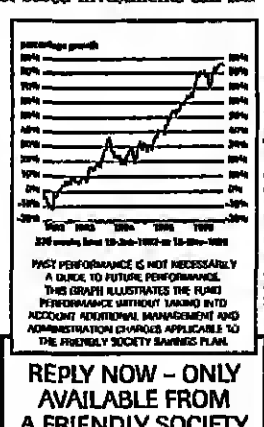
or return the coupon below to: HOMEOWNERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LIMITED, FREEPOST, MOORFIELD ROAD, YEADON, LEEDS LS19 7YV.

Save with a Friendly Society and there's no tax to pay on any investment growth. That's because Friendly Societies have special tax-free status dating back over 100 years. And there's no tax to pay when you receive your lump sum after a minimum of ten years.

Choose to save £10, £15, £20 or £25 a month for 10 years or more for each member of your family (under 75 years). It's an ideal financial top-up in retirement; a starter savings scheme for children; or simply a way to build a very useful tax-free cash sum.

It's a savings plan you can hold provided you have not already reached your tax-free limit. In fact many savers hardly notice the outlay. And with Homeowners' financial experts you can enjoy the growth potential of the stock market which over the longer term has outperformed Building Society deposits. Please remember that the value of stock market based investments can fall as well as rise and you may not get back what you invest - unlike deposits where capital is secure.

When you start saving for your future with the Friendly Society Savings Plan your money will be placed in the Homeowners Great British Companies fund. You'll be in good company - Homeowners Friendly Society is a mutual society and manages around £570,000,000 for its 205,000 members.



REPLY NOW - ONLY AVAILABLE FROM A FRIENDLY SOCIETY

YOUR FREE GUIDE

YES PLEASE SEND ME MY FREE GUIDE about tax-free friendly society savings and my free Sheaffer pen.

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms/Ms)

First Name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Daytime Tel. No. (if you do not wish to pay your deposit of other products to us please tick this box)

Date of Birth

No. of adults in your household

No. of children under 16 years

Mail this coupon to: HOMEOWNERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LIMITED, FREEPOST, MOORFIELD ROAD, YEADON, LEEDS LS19 7YV.

Please quote THIS REF. NO. PIN434



Homeowners Friendly Society
CARING, TRUSTWORTHY, FRIENDLY
Regulated by the Financial Services Authority for Investment Business

Call freefone 0800 210270



PENSIONS MADE SIMPLE

24 hours a day..... 7 days a week..... Now you can pick up the phone and get pensions information or advice and even set up a plan, quickly and without fuss.

0345 6789 10

or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Find out why pension plans are not all the same.

Perhaps you think that all pension plans are the same. If you do, then you would be making a big mistake. Here are some of the reasons why you should consider an Equitable Pension Plan.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE:

- Pays no commission to third parties for the introduction of new business.
- Has no shareholders.

OUR PENSION PLAN:

- Lets you retire earlier or later than planned - without penalty.
- Lets you vary your contributions - without penalty.
- Provides full return of fund in the event of death before retirement.

So, if you would like to find out more about how The Equitable Pension Plan is not the same as most others, call us direct on (0990) 38 48 58 or send off the coupon below for more information by post and by telephone.

www.equitable.co.uk

Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7BR

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR

I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans. I am self-employed ☐ I am an employee not in a company pension scheme ☐ INRATA

NAME (Mr/Ms/Miss) _____

ADDRESS _____

Tel: (Office) _____ Postcode _____

Tel: (Home) _____

Date of Birth _____



The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

Best borrowing rates

| Telephone | % Rate and period | Max adv % | Fee | Incentive | Redemption penalty |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Fixed rates | | | | | |
| Scarborough BS | 0800 590547 | 0.95 for 1 year | 85 | 0.75% — | 1st 5 yrs: 6.03% of sum repaid |
| Coventry BS | 0800 126125 | 4.90 to 1/1/99 | 85 | £250 — | To 1/1/02: 6 mths interest |
| Bristol & West BS | 0800 119955 | 6.99 to 1/1/01 | 90 | £275 — | To 31/12/01: 6 mths interest |
| Variable rates | | | | | |
| Scarborough BS | 0800 590547 | 0.75% for 1 year | 90 | — — | 1st 5 yrs: 6.49% of sum repaid |
| Coventry BS | 0800 126125 | 4.06% for 2 years | 85 | — — | 1st 5 yrs: 6mths interest |
| West Bromwich BS | 0121 525 7070 | 5.10% for 3 years | 75 | — 1% adv rebated | 1st 6 yrs: 6% of advance |
| First time buyers fixed rates | | | | | |
| Lambeth BS | 0800 225221 | 5.20 to 1/3/99 | 95 | £295 — | 1st 5 yrs: 6 mths interest |
| First Mortgage | 0800 080088 | 6.35 to 1/4/00 | 90 | £295 — | To 1/4/03: 6% of w/s balance |
| Bristol & West BS | 0800 119955 | 7.48 to 1/1/02 | 90 | £275 — | To 31/12/02: 6mths interest |
| First time buyers variable rates | | | | | |
| Principality BS | 01222 344188 | 2.50 to 1/4/98 | 90 | — — | To 1/4/02: discount reclaimed |
| Greenwich BS | 0181 858 8212 | 4.15% for 2 years | 95 | — — | 1st 5 yrs: discount reclaimed |
| Northern Rock BS | 0800 991500 | 5.74% to 1/3/02 | 95 | £295 Refund vail fee | 1st 7 yrs: 5% of sum repaid |

| Telephone | APR % | Max LTV | Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 years) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------|--|
| Unsecured | | | |
| Northern Rock BS | 0345 421421 | 12.9H | £112.66 |
| Royal B of Scotland | 0800 121125 | 14.0 | £114.78 |
| Nationwide BS | via local branch | 14.9 | £113.15 |
| Secured (second charge) | | | |
| Clydesdale Bank | 0800 240024 | 7.8 | Neg £3K - £15K |
| Royal B of Scotland | 0131 523 7023 | 9.0 | £25K-£100K |
| First Direct | 0345 100103 | 9.5 | 80% £5K-neg |

| Telephone | Account | Authorised % pm | Unauthorised % pm | APR |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|------|
| Woodwich BS | | | | |
| 0800 400900 | Current | 0.84 | 10.5 | 21.8 |
| Alliance & Leicester | | | | |
| 0500 959595 | Alliance | 0.76 | 9.5 | 22.0 |
| Bank of Scotland | | | | |
| 0800 805805 | Direct Cheque | — | 11.0 | — |

| Telephone | Card Type | Min Income | Rate % pm | APR % | Annual Fee | Int. free period |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|--------|------------|------------------|
| Standard | | | | | | |
| Co-operative Bank | 0800 109000 | Advantage Visa | — | 0.64N | 7.90N | nil |
| RBS Advanta | 0800 077770 | Visa | — | 0.79N | 9.90N | nil |
| Capital One Bank | 0800 669000 | Visa | — | 0.797N | 9.90N | nil |
| Gold cards | | | | | | |
| Co-operative Bank | 0345 212212 | Visa | £20,000 | 0.50 | 10.50 | £120 |
| RBS Advanta | 0800 077770 | Visa | £20,000 | 0.79N | 9.90N | nil |
| Royal B of Scotland | 01702 362890 | Visa | £20,000 | 1.05N | 14.50N | £35 |

| Telephone | Payment by direct debit | Payment by other methods |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| John Lewis | | |
| via store | 1.38 | 18.0 |
| 01244 681681 | 1.87 | 24.8 |
| Sears | | |
| via store | 1.94 | 25.9 |

APR: Annualised percentage rate. B+C: Buildings and Contents insurance LTV: Loan to value ASD: Accident, sickness and unemployment
 F: Available to comprehensive motor insurance policyholders aged over 22 years. H: Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged
 N: Introductory rate for a limited period.
 All rates subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01692 500677 23 January 1997

Best savings rates

| Telephone number | Account | Notice or term | Deposit | Rate % | Interest interval |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| INSTANT ACCESS | | | | | |
| Portman BS | 01202 292444 | Instant Access | Instant | £100 | 4.70 Year |
| Bank of Scotland | 0500 804804 | Instant Access Savings | Instant | £5,000 | 5.13 Month |
| Bank of Scotland | 0500 804804 | Instant Access Savings | Instant | £10,000 | 5.60 Year |
| Direct Line | 0181 667 1121 | Instant Savings | Instant | £50,000 | 5.75 Year |

| Telephone number | Account | Notice or term | Deposit | Rate % | Interest interval |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| INSTANT ACCESS POSTAL | | | | | |
| Scarborough BS | 0800 590578 | Instant by Post | Post | £1,000 | 6.00 Year |
| Coventry BS | 0800 590500 | Select Instant | Post | £5,000 | 6.35 Year |
| Bristol & West BS | 0800 901109 | Instant Postal | Post | £25,000 | 6.35 Year |
| Northern Rock BS | 0500 505000 | Select Instant | Post | £50,000 | 6.45 Year |

| Telephone number | Account | Notice or term | Deposit | Rate % | Interest interval |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-------------------|
| NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS | | | | | |
| Chelsea BS | 0800 132351 | POST-Inst 20 | 20 day P | £5,000 | 6.05 Year |
| First National BS | 0500 505000 | 30 Day Notice | 30 day P | £10,000 | 6.30 Year |
| Northern Rock BS | 0500 505000 | Select 60 | 60 day P | £10,000 | 6.50 Year |
| Leeds & Holbeck BS | 0113 225 7777 | Postal Bonus | 30/4/98 P | £10,000 | 7.00 Maturity |

| Telephone number | Account | Notice or term | Deposit | Rate % | Interest interval |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| CHEQUE ACCOUNTS | | | | | |
| Clairmont Bank | 0800 317477 | HCA | Instant | £2,500 | 5.20 Month |
| Investec Bank (UK) | 0171 626 0879 | HCA 5000 | Instant | £5,000 | 5.25 Quarter |
| Halifax BS | 01422 335333 | Asset Reserve | Instant | £10,000 | 4.25 Year |
| Chelsea BS | 0800 171515 | Classic Postal | Instant | £10,000 | 4.50 Year |

| Telephone number | Account | Notice or term | Deposit | Rate % | Interest interval |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|---------|-------------------|
| FIXED RATE BONDS | | | | | |
| Norwich & Peterborough | 01733 391497 | Fixed Rate Bond | 1 Year | £500 | 6.75F Maturity |
| Prudential Banking | 0800 000222 | Fixed Rate Savings | 15 Month | £10,000 | 7.05F Maturity |
| Nationwide BS | 0800 302010 | Fixed Rate Bond | 2 Year | £1,000 | 7.25F Year |
| Coventry BS | 0345 665522 | Fixed Rate Bond | 30/1/99 | £1,000 | 7.30F Year |

| Telephone number | Account | Notice or term | Deposit | Rate % | Interest interval |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|---------|--------|-------------------|
| FIRST TESSAS | | | | | |
| Sun Banking Corp | 01438 744505 | Fixed Rate TESSA | 5 years | £8,575 | 7.50F Year |
| NatWest Bank | 0800 200400 | Fixed Rate TESSA | 5 years | £5,000 | 7.45F Year |
| Investec Bank (UK) | 0171 626 0879 | Fixed Rate TESSA | 5 years | £9,000 | 7.20 Year |
| West Bromwich BS | 0990 143668 | Fixed Rate TESSA | 5 years | £250 | 7.00 Year |

| Telephone number | Account | Notice or term | Deposit | Rate % | Interest interval |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|---------|--------|-------------------|
| FOLLOW-ON TESSAS | | | | | |
| Sun Banking Corporation | 01438 744505 | Fixed Rate TESSA | 5 years | £8,000 | 7.50F Year |
| NatWest Bank | 0800 200400 | Fixed Rate TESSA | 5 years | £5,000 | 7.45F Year |
| National Counties BS | 01372 747771 | Fixed Rate TESSA | 5 years | £9,000 | 7.20 Year |
| West Bromwich BS | 0990 143668 | Fixed Rate TESSA | 5 years | £250 | 7.00 Year |

| Telephone number | Account | Notice or term | Deposit | Rate % | Interest interval |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS | | | | | |
| Financial Assurance | 0181 380388 | Fixed Rate Bond | 1 year | £5,000 | 5.30FN Year |
| Pinpoint Insurance | 0181 207 9007 | Fixed Rate Bond | 2 year | £3,000 | 5.90FN Year |
| Pinpoint Insurance | 0181 207 9007 | Fixed Rate Bond | 3 years | £3,000 | 5.95FN Year |
| Financial Assurance | 0181 380388 | Fixed Rate Bond | 4 years | £20,000 | 6.30FN Year |
| Pinpoint Insurance | 0181 207 9007 | Fixed Rate Bond | 5 years | £3,000 | 6.40FN Year |

| Telephone number | Account | Notice or term | Deposit | Rate % | Interest interval |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS | | | | | |
| NatWest Bank Gibraltar | 00 350 76168 | Nova Access | Instant | £25,000 | 6.30 Year |
| Northern Rock, Guern | 01481 714600 | Offshore 30 | 30 day | £10,000 | 6.55 Year |
| Alliance & Leicester Int | 01624 663566 | Fixed Rate Bond | 2 Year | £10,000 | 7.10F Year |
| Northern Rock, Guern | 01481 714600 | Millennium Bond | 1/1/00 | £10,000 | 7.50F Year |

| Telephone number | Account | Notice or term | Deposit | Rate % | Interest interval |
|---|---------|----------------|---------|--------|-------------------|
| NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS | | | | | |
| Investment Accounts | | | | | |
| Income Bonds | | | | | |
| Capital Bond | | | | | |
| First Option Bonds | | | | | |
| Pensioners' Guaranteed Income Bond | | | | | |
| NS Certificates (tax-free) | | | | | |
| Children's Bond | | | | | |

P: post only F: fixed rate
 N: net rate A: All withdrawals subject of 30 day loss of interest
 All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01692 500677 23 January 1997

Have your share of tax free income with Norwich Union

THE NORWICH BALANCED INCOME TRUST PEP OPTION

- High level of tax free income
- Balance of high yielding equities and fixed interest securities
- Less risk than funds invested solely in equities

23.2%*

Total return since launch on 7/2/95

- Potential for long term growth in capital and income
- Benefit from Norwich Union's investment expertise
- Up to £12,000 per couple may be invested in general PEPs per tax year

*Based on actual performance with gross income reinvested from 7/2/95 to 17/1/97

Return the coupon or call 0345 73 83 93 (local call rates), quoting reference "4IN03", today

Complete in block capitals and post to:

Norwich Union Portfolio Services Limited, FREEPOST ANG 4247, Norwich NR1 3BR.

| | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------------|-------|
| Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms | Initials | Surname | 4IN03 |
| Address | | | |
| Postcode | | | |
| Daytime tel no | | Evening tel no | |

Data that you provide may be used by Norwich Union group companies, your financial adviser or other relevant organisations for marketing purposes such as market research and contacting you regarding your future insurance and investment needs. For your protection all telephone calls will be recorded. The value of and income from PEPs may fall and you may not get back the amount invested.



No one protects more.

For the Balanced Income Trust the annual management charge is deducted from capital as income is the key objective. The potential for capital growth is therefore reduced by the amount of the annual charge. Information/advice offered will only relate to Norwich Union products. References to UK taxation are to levels and reliefs currently available and are subject to change and an individual's circumstances.

INSURANCE INVESTMENTS HEALTHCARE PENSIONS

Norwich Union Portfolio Services Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and by IMRO.

MJN The Best Choice For The Latest Technology Service & Value



MJN Multimedia MT

- Intel 166MHz Pentium processor with MMX™ Technology (P166M model) or 200MHz Pentium processor manufactured by IBM (P166+ and P166+ TX models)
- 32Mb EDO RAM. (Remember a 32Mb P166+ system yields far better performance than a 16Mb P200 system)
- 2.1Gb enhanced IDE hard disk
- 33.6 V34+ BAST internal modem
- 8 speed CD-ROM drive
- 15" or 17" SVGA 0.28db screens
- 256K pipeline burst cache
- 64-bit integrated graphics (uses up to 2Mb system RAM)
- 16-bit stereo sound
- PC Joystick
- Twin stereo speaker system
- 7 bay midi tower case
- Standard ports including PS/2 mouse, 2 fast serial, parallel and joystick
- 3.5" floppy drive, PS/2 mouse and 105 keyboard

P166+ TX model also contains 512K pipeline burst cache, Soundblaster 32 wavetable sound card, ATI 2Mb SDRAM graphics, premium 15w speakers and microphone

MJN 01 282 777 555

Telephone sales lines are open Monday - Friday 9.00am - 7.00pm, Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

MJN Technology Limited, Granville House, Blackburn Rd, Simonstone, Burnley, Lancs, BB12 7GT. Tel: 01282 777 555. Fax: 01282 77 08 44. All prices exclude delivery & VAT. £201.30. Software applications are provided on CD or tape and are not included in the price. Standard 3.5" floppy disks are not included. Prices and availability are subject to change without notice. Products sold subject to our conditions of sale which are available on request. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. ©1997

MMX™ Technology

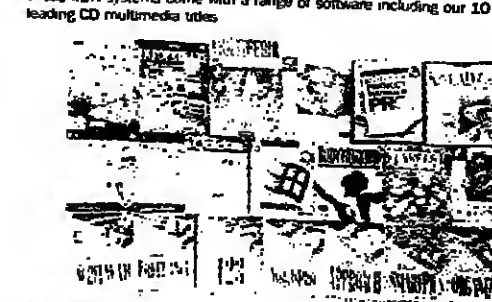
MJN high performance systems feature the latest Intel 166MHz Pentium™ processors with MMX™ technology and high speed IBM P166+ processors to provide you with the ultimate performance. These systems include 32Mb EDO RAM, fast 33.6 modems, large 15" or 17" screens, fast 2.1Gb hard disks and full-featured 8 speed multimedia. Our highest performance P166+ TX model also includes Soundblaster 32 wavetable sound, ATI SDRAM graphics, 512K burst cache and premium speakers.

| | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| P166+ Model • 32Mb RAM • 3.5Gb HD • 256K Cache • 33.6 Modem | £1172 ⁶⁵ | £998 ⁹⁹ |
| P166M Model • 32Mb RAM • 2.1Gb HD • 256K Cache • 33.6 Modem | £1395 ⁴⁰ | £1188 ¹⁸ |
| P166+ TX Model • 32Mb RAM • 2.1Gb HD • 512K Cache • 33.6 Modem | £1442 ⁰⁰ | £1228 ²⁸ |

17" Screen models are £235 (£200 + VAT) extra.

MJN Offers End 31st January

These MJN systems come with a range of software including our 10 leading CD multimedia titles



Software

- Microsoft Windows 95
- Lotus SmartSuite 95, Pressworks, Designworks, Homeworks pre-loaded
- Quicken v5 multimedia CD finance pack
- Massive software bundle including 10 leading CD Titles: Inopedia UK encyclopedia, BodyWorks v5, Comptons 1997 World Atlas, Multimedia Bookshelf, KeyCAD Pro, Project Manager Pro, Read, Write & Type, Labels Unlimited, Comptons 1997 Encyclopedia and Games & Gadgets.
- P166M system also includes multimedia titles designed for MMX™ Technology: The Ultimate Human Body 3, Space Station Simulation, 3rd Dimension and Timetables of

A different class of bond

Damien Hirst's agent has bought into Tracey Emin. Should you? By John Windsor

Would you buy a £150 bond from this woman? The City-style pin-stripe jacket she is wearing belongs not to her but to a friend and she has a hangover, having spent the night at the dogs in Catford then at a party that lasted until 3am.

This is Tracey Emin, artist. The limited issue of 150 bonds – her second in two years – consists of five-minute videotapes showing her and her father splashing about in the sea off Cyprus. The "Official Bond Form" assures applicants that the videotape "concentrates on the beautiful things of this world".

You can order a video, complete with stamped certificate – cheques payable to Tracey Emin – from her museum, situated between a cafe and a hairdresser's near Waterloo station. This is the Tracey Emin Museum, dedicated to the life and art of Tracey Emin and, according to a notice in the window, "the perfect place to grow".

Here, where she is chief exhibit, curator and cleaner, mementos of her childhood are for sale, such as a framed floral-patterned elephant, the first thing she ever sewed, aged six – so far unsold at £3,500. Not all the beautiful things in her world, it seems, are sexy enough to lure big spenders.

The artwork that has raised most column inches is her tent titled *Everyone I Have Slept With, 1963-1995*. It has 96 names sewn inside – 102 if you include a family of four. They include "Chris?", her parents and the two focuses she had aborted.

Those fetuses are a jaw-dropper in her stage monologues – stream-of-consciousness in which she goes on about her school days, sleeping with lots of men, getting drunk, living in squats, going boating with her father in Cyprus, and sleeping with lots of men.

For her performance in Stockholm last year, she stripped naked in a room viewed through a spy-hole, painted pictures including one showing her being mounted from the rear, captioned *If I have to be honest, I'd rather not be painting*, and pegged her bra and knickers on to a clothes line.

So, fancy investing in a Tracey Emin Bond? Or does a unit trust, any unit trust, seem preferable?

Not much doubt, is there? But consider, (and leave your investment analyst out of this): if you had bought her first issue two years ago you would have an asset worth 140 per cent more. Those were redeemable bonds

costing £500, consisting of spidery abstract drawings on paper bearing the same stamp (little drawings cost £50). They could be redeemed for double their face value in Emin artworks from the moment of purchase – a built-in, instant yield. Yet all the investors have chosen to hang on to them.

The bonds have never been traded, which means that their market value is unknown, but in the past year, similar drawings of hers of the same size have risen in value from £800 to £1,200, the price that Jay Jopling, her agent, got for the two displayed at this month's Art 97 fair in Islington. That's the Jopling of White Cube, leading Nineties gallerist and agent of Damien Hirst, shark and cattle picker, who has made art by young Brits lucrative throughout the world. Jopling also got £4,750 each for Emin's three pink neon signs in her scrawly handwriting, *Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Cover My Body in Love*.

Then there is her edition of 200 *lives d'artiste* titled *Exploration of the Soul* – each concealing within its coy cottoo bag the snappy intro: "Just making love to f***/ Insanely – / And to know it doesn't stop..." She sold newly published copies at £100 in 1994; then, as stocks dwindled, hoicked the price to £120, then £180, £200, £250, £275, £300 and now £350, the price of the remaining eight. She reckons Soul has made her more than £15,000.

The tent, your analyst might be interested to know, was shown in Brilliant! New Art From London, the groundbreaking exhibition of art by young Brits, Hirst included, in Minneapolis in 1995. Emin sold it recently "for thousands".

Small wonder she has never been asked to redeem a bond. Among investors in Emin nest-eggs: Jopling and some of his White Cube artists – Turner prizewinners Damien Hirst and Anthony Gormley and last year's Turner nominee Gary Hume.

Many investors are well-wishers – such as Sandy Nairne, the Tate Gallery's director of public services, who bought a £50 bond (for himself, not the Tate). "I wanted to support her work," he says. "I'm also impressed by the honest and direct way in which she says 'Promote me!'"

And next for Emin? Why, this year's Turner prize. She and three of her women chums, Gillian Wearing (video artist who once photographed herself in bed with three oaked transvestites), Sarah Lucas (collagist who used to run an art shop with Emilio), and Sam Tay-

lor-Wood (Jopling video artist bought by Saatchi), are strongly tipped for nominations.

They have influential allies, not least Waldemar Januszczak, the arts writer who, as head of arts at Channel 4, successfully lobbied for the resuscitation of the Turner prize after its demise in 1990.

Two months ago, he wrote: "Since the Turner prize is regularly a year out of step, next year's shortlist will be dominated by the women artists who should have featured this time."

He named all four. You can now expect them to be hyped by the media as the female equivalent of Hirst's brat pack. Januszczak has described them as "self-styled Bad Girls", single urbanites who are "pleasure-loving, lippy and aesthetically wild".

To which Emin objects: "We're women, for God's sake. I'm 34." She has a dignity that is surprising in one whose chosen role is revealing intimacies to audiences of strangers. Both Januszczak and Jopling, who met her at a gallery opening during her lonely get-drunk-and-insult-people phase, are melted by her considerable charm.

But Emin knows her art history. The museum devoted to herself is a development of comparable ventures by other artists such as German Dadaist Kurt Schwitters and Belgian conceptualist Marcel Broodthaers. And in her performances she knowingly epitomises the artist-as-artwork, in the tradition of Dali, Warhol, Gilbert and George – and Hirst, whose brat-pack lifestyle is all part of his reputation as an artist.

Equally knowingly, she uses her bonds to fuse art with commerce – a moral and artistic problem that the likes of German junk sculptor Joseph Beuys tried but failed to get to grips with. "A statement?" I ask hesitantly. She does not object. "I see no reason why the spiritual and the material should not go together," she says. "Art has become a currency."

Perhaps you should reach for your investment analyst after all. Or perhaps just your analyst.

Tracey Emin Museum, 221 Waterloo Road, London SE1, (0171-261 1116). Exhibition *I Need Art Like I Need God* at the South London Gallery, 65 Peckham Road, London SE5, 16 April to 18 May. Small multiples, £25-£100, are on sale at the Institute of Contemporary Arts bookshop, 12 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1, (0171-925 2434).



Sex, art and videotape: Tracey Emin labels her museum 'the perfect place to grow'. But would your investment? PHOTOGRAPH: TONY BUCKINGHAM

£200 to spare at an auction?

AUCTIONS IN LONDON

Bonhams Chelsea modern and contemporary picture sale: Tuesday, 11am. An indulgence for curio-seekers that is easy on the pocket. Most estimates under £200, plenty under £100. Condition apart, something irresistible will leap out – Dick Leech's *Portrait of a Cockney Lady* perhaps (no estimate), or *Two Ladies Digging for Ants*, *Kangaroo Dreaming*, signed Emily (est £200-£300). But you are unlikely to carry off Feliks Topolski's charcoal-and-wash portrait of Nubar Gulbenkian for the come-on estimate of £200-£300.

The same saleroom catalogue contains Tuesday's print sale, 2pm, and Wednesday's sales of British ceramics, 10.30am, and rugs, carpets, objects and furniture, 1pm, in which most lots are estimated under £200. For better quality carpets try Bonhams Knightsbridge, Tuesday, 2pm. More cheap carpets, furniture, ceramics and collectables at Phillips Bayswater, Monday, 10am. Costume and textiles: Christie's South Kensington's bi-monthly sale, Tuesday, 2pm, has 70 lots of paisley and Canton pattern shawls. A few estimates are under £200, but take at least £300 with you. Curio of the week: a miniature steam engine with passenger-carriers and trestles, said by Brooks to be highly restorable (est £500-£700) in its sale of motoring spares, Thursday, noon, at 81 Clapham Common West Side, London SW4.

AUCTIONS COUNTRYWIDE

Beaune's, Torquay: 600 lots of artworks, furniture, textiles, weapons, boxes and caddies, clocks, scientific instruments and other collectables, Tuesday, 10am (01803-296277).

David Lay, Penzance: Sale of furniture, artworks, collectables and curios. Furnishings include an Edwardian brass fender (est £40-£60), Thursday-Friday, 10am (01736-61414).

Computers and computerware: Flight Refuelling Social Club, Merley, Wimborne, Dorset, tomorrow, 11am. South West Computer Auctions (01934-733195).

FAIRS

World of Drawings and Watercolours: Tuesday-Sunday, Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London W1 (0171-411 3166; during fair, 0171-629 8888).

Mammoth Antiques and Collectors: Leicester Granby Halls tomorrow and Donington Park next Saturday-Sunday. Four in One Promotions (01455-233495).

R&S Antique and Collectors: The Brentwood Centre, Brentwood, Essex, tomorrow (01702-300112).

John Windsor

WITH SO MANY PEPS TO CHOOSE FROM, AREN'T YOU REALLY CONFUSED?

PEPs. PEPs. And more PEPs.

Where do you start?

At the Woolwich, we are always looking for ways to help you make the most of your money.



Our friendly advisers will happily discuss with you our three PEP options and which one most suits your needs.

Our Corporate Bond PEP offers you the best of both worlds, a low risk investment with a higher return than deposit-based savings.

combined with an income option. The UK Stockmarket Fund PEP has excellent past performance – 103%* growth since launch. Whilst our International Managed Fund PEP is an ideal choice if you want a wider investment spread.

Whichever you choose, all returns will, of course, be completely tax-free.

So visit any Woolwich branch, and we'll be happy to give you further details. Alternatively, send off the coupon today or call us free on 0800 22 22 00 quoting ref: IGP25/1. For your security, telephone conversations may be recorded.

*Source: Mispell Ltd, buying price to selling price, from 1.3.95 to 18.12.96, the UK Stockmarket Fund grew by 103.01% with income reinvested.

The Woolwich Building Society, Customer Response Unit, Postbox 637, 99, Wandsworth Road, London, SW8 4AB. It's the more details of the PEP investments in the Corporate Bond Fund, the UK Stockmarket Fund and the International Managed Fund.

Name _____ Address _____
Postcode _____
Telephone _____ IGP25/1

Get much more with the
WOOLWICH

Internet address: <http://www.woolwich.co.uk/woolwich>

THE VALUE OF YOUR INVESTMENT AND INCOME EARNED IS NOT GUARANTEED AND CAN GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE.

All references to tax rates are to UK taxation and are based on the Society's understanding of UK law and related financial practices as at 30th April 1996. Tax rates referred to may change and their value will depend on your own financial circumstances. Woolwich Building Society members only the Woolwich Marketing Group which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority for its insurance and unit trust business. Any advice or recommendation provided will only relate to products offered by the Woolwich Marketing Group. Principal Office of Woolwich Building Society and Registered Office of Woolwich Unit Trust Managers Limited: Dagenham Dock, Dagenham, Essex, SS1 6AG.

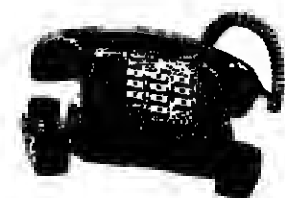
0800 22 22 00

The FT-SE 100® Index* has grown by 241% in only eight years.

For a low cost PEP that tracks its performance, read on.

You could share, tax free, in the fortunes of 100 of the UK's best known companies with a Direct Line Tracker PEP.

- Make lump sum or monthly investments.
- No initial charges. No bid/offer spread.
- Only 1% annual fee.
- Top up to your annual £6,000 limit at any time.
- To find out more call us now.



DIRECT LINE
PERSONAL EQUITY PLANS

0181 253 7737

LONDON

0161 832 7737

MANCHESTER

0141 889 7737

GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 2pm Saturday. Please quote ref. 3INI
<http://www.directline.co.uk>
A Royal Bank of Scotland company.

Dependents provided for?

Ensure they can benefit from your pension. By Nic Cicutti

In life, as Benjamin Franklin once said, the only things you can be sure about are death and taxes. For many people with personal pensions, the one sure thing about death is the hardship it will create for those they leave behind.

Their dependents will discover after their death that the only payouts they are entitled to from policies into which payments have been made for years is a return of the premiums paid in. In many other cases all they will get back is contributions plus either 4 or 6 per cent, depending on the pension plan they were sold.

Roddy Kohn, a financial adviser at Bristol-based Kohn Kourgan, says: "When you are in your 30s and 40s, sudden death is the last thing on your mind. In fact, it is not as rare as all that."

Out of 1,000 people aged 35, about 60 will have died within 20 years. Of the same number of people who reach

the age of 40, just over 100 will die before they reach 60.

The difference in the amount paid can be massive. Equitable Life, a top insurer, calculates that on contributions of £1,000 each year for 20 years the payout would reach £30,969, assuming annual returns of 4 per cent. This rises to £38,993 if interest of 6 per cent is added.

But with Equitable Life, £20,000 invested over the same period would have delivered returns of more than £128,000.

Throughout most of the 1980s, the majority of pension providers offered contracts where premiums, alone or at very low interest, were returned. This changed after 1988, when the Government permitted wider sales of personal pensions.

Ian Naismith, pensions strategy manager at Commercial Union, says change often came through fear of bad publicity.

"Originally, if you wanted to

provide for your dependents after your death, you did so separately through life cover," he explains.

"Then people started to say that insurance companies are profiting from those who die. It was quite difficult to argue with someone who was bereaved."

All Commercial Union contracts since 1984 return all a policyholder's funds at death. The company also granted the same terms to those with earlier plans.

Equitable Life does the same. Nigel Webb, a manager there, says: "We decided it was grossly unfair that dependents were denied the full fund and retrospectively placed all our policyholders on the new terms. We meet the cost of doing so ourselves."

The cost can be expensive. Estimates range from 0.5 per cent of a fund's value on a pension taken out over 10 years, to 3.5 per cent for 25-year policies. This is because someone has to pick up the tab for

effectively adding a slash of insurance to the contract.

Not all insurers are keen to shoulder this burden. Peter Byrne, individual pensions product manager at NPI, another pensions provider, says: "We don't do it automatically. We give the option to the member and remind them in regular mailings, reminding them of the downside of changing over."

With NPI, anyone wanting to switch can do so, but must meet the cost themselves. Where companies still refuse to return all funds to dependents, one option is to transfer the pension fund to a new provider.

But Mr Kohn warns: "The old-style pension did have certain benefits, such as the right to a larger tax-free lump sum at retirement."

"Also, there is no contributions limit on them." High transfer charges could also carve a large slice out of the fund's value.

Nor does Mr Kohn always

recommend paying more to gain the extra benefits: "It can sometimes be too expensive. My advice is that if you want to protect the likely return of your fund, consider separate insurance instead."

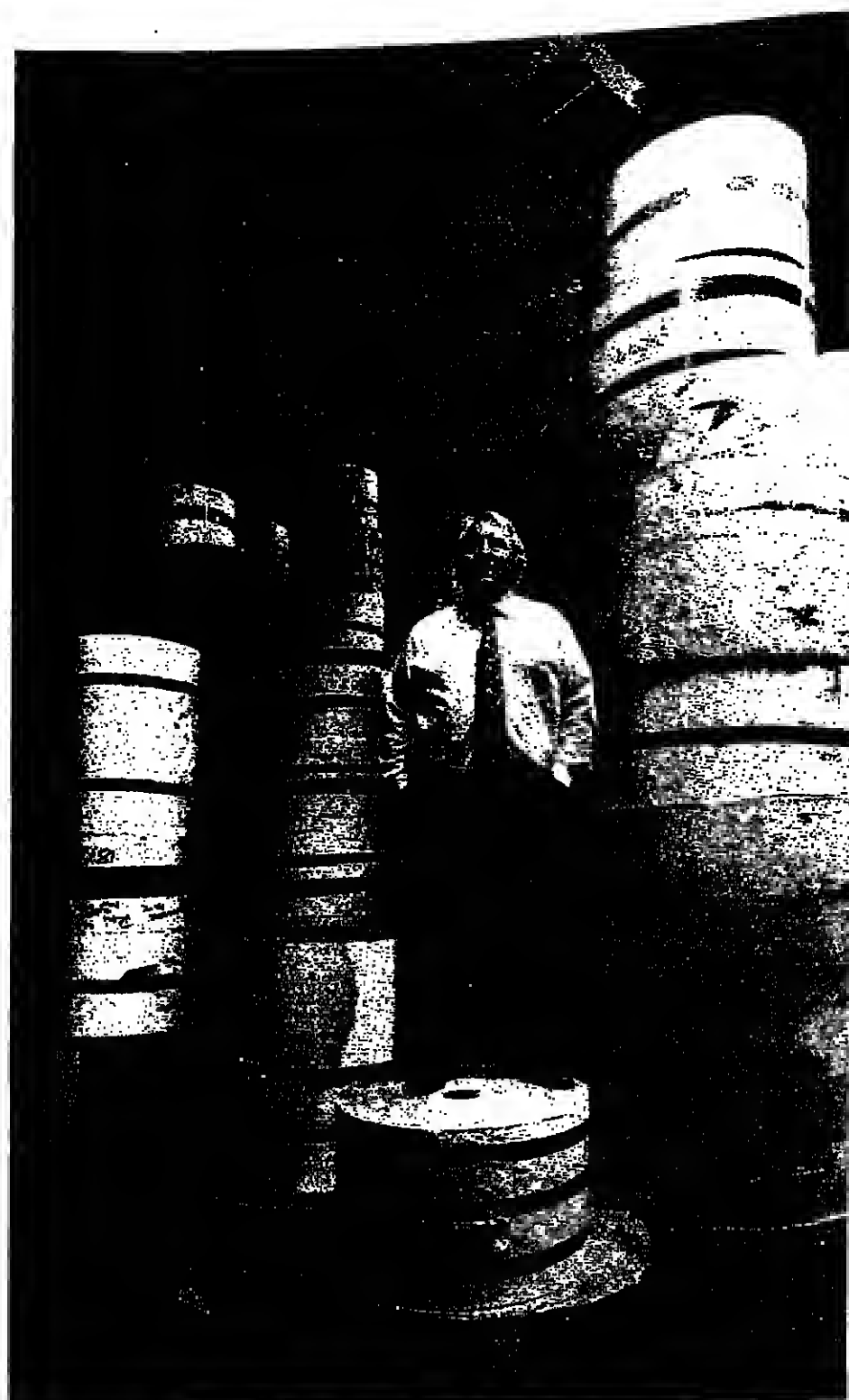
Mike Chelton is managing director of CSM Impact, a web-offset print firm in Basingstoke. His pension, started 10 years ago, was caught in the same trap.

"I did not fully understand the rules at the time and when I spoke to Roddy it was very enlightening," he says. Mr Chelton, who is 50 and hopes to retire before 60, only needed term assurance for a few years.

Mr Kohn points out that a 10-year term policy for someone aged 50 which pays £100,000 in the event of death, would only cost £53 a month, before full tax relief. A 40-year old male would pay £32 a month for 20 years' cover, before relief.

"That way, he saves some money, while having the reassurance of knowing his family will still be protected if he dies. It's a belt and braces approach and could be unnecessary if you have provided for dependents by other means. But it can sometimes be best to be careful."

The Independent has produced a comprehensive 52-page 'Guide to Pensions Planning', sponsored by Equitable Life, which explains everything you need to know about retirement planning. For your free copy, please call 0800 137372 or fill out the coupon on page 30.



Papering over the gap: Mike Chelton, managing director of a print firm (above), found term assurance was the best way to safeguard his family

NEW INVESTMENT TRUST FROM M&G

M&G will be launching a new Investment Trust in February which will be available for investment in the M&G PEP.

This new fund will invest in a portfolio of shares and aims to provide a high and growing income as well as good capital growth over time.

PEP investors will have a choice of investing, either to achieve a yield above 5%* or, for those investors willing to take higher risk, to achieve a yield of over 6%*.

There will be no initial charge and no withdrawal fee.

This new fund will give you the opportunity to invest your tax free PEP allowance for both the current tax year and for the 1997/98 tax year - a total tax free investment of up to £12,000.

After the initial offer period there will be a spread between the buying and selling prices.

To: The M&G Group, Bristol BS38 7ET. Please send me a free copy of the new M&G Handbook and details of the new M&G Investment Trust.

NO SALESMAN WILL CALL.

You should contact your independent financial adviser (if you have one) before investing. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up. The value to you of the tax benefits will depend on your own circumstances. The tax regime of PEPs could change in the future.

| | | |
|---------------|----------|---------|
| Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms | INITIALS | SURNAME |
| ADDRESS | | |
| POSTCODE | | |
| KE-BEAD | | |

M&G does not offer investment advice or offer any recommendations regarding investments. We only market the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group.

Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited (Regulated by The Personal Investment Authority) M&G Unit Trusts are managed by M&G Securities Limited (Regulated by IMRO and The Personal Investment Authority).

We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated M&G Companies.

Tick the box ☐ if you would prefer not to receive this information.

Managing your money for the longer term



The M&G PEP

FREE

The new edition of the M&G Handbook is now available, giving details of M&G's range of PEPs, Unit Trusts, Savings Plans and Regular Income Plans.

For details return the coupon or telephone

0990 600 612

Or e-mail

hb@MandG.reply.co.uk

*Yields are based on investment within the M&G PEP and forecast as at 31.12.96 and are subject to change.

Pension funds shaken up

But it's too late for some members, writes George Campbell

One of the biggest shake-ups in pensions history comes into effect in April with the introduction of the Pensions Act 1995. But it could be too late for members of pension funds that are already being wound up.

The sweeping changes, introduced in an attempt to prevent a repetition of Robert Maxwell's actions when he plundered the Mirror Group's coffers, will revolutionise the industry but members of pension funds in the process of winding up face a nail-biting future.

The burden of underfunding usually falls on members who have not yet retired (and their dependents) and the higher the shortfall in assets, the greater the financial hardship.

A typical example is AM International UK, the old Addressograph Multigraph outfit.

It went into administrative receivership in February last year, leaving more than 2,000 pension fund members in the lurch, and observers reckon it will take at least two years to sort out the mess.

There is no suggestion of fraud or malpractice following the demise of AM, and the total fund is understood to stand at £20m. But the newly appointed trustees, Eversheds Pension Trustees, were certainly keeping a low profile when I rang for an update on events.

"We don't want to make the pensioners any more anxious than they already are," said a spokeswoman.

"We have appointed Alexander Clay to deal with the administration of the scheme in place of Sedgwick Noble Lowndes.

"They have been responsible for the pensioner payroll since May and are controlling all the records we have

inherited. This is not an easy task as many of those records are inadequate."

Administrators of the scheme, Birmingham-based Alexander Clay, which have looked after the payroll for the past eight months, were just as backward in coming forward.

A spokesman said: "Eversheds have been on to me and I'm afraid I have nothing to say. I'd like to help you but I can't."

A spokesman for Coopers & Lybrand, the administrative receivers of AM, was more helpful. "The trustees are naturally being cautious," he said.

"What the pensioners get at the end of the day depends on a number of things - the mix of the fund for one and how markets have performed since it was wound up."

"Price Waterhouse are busy finalising the accounts which will show the asset situation and the actuaries, Barnett Waddingham, will come up with calculations of how much is required to keep the pension fund running on an ongoing basis. Until these figures are released, pensioners will be in the dark."

Assuming a shortfall in assets, which is highly likely based on past winding-up experience, pensions already in payment have priority after any advanced voluntary contributions benefits, and in a document released to members Eversheds is hopeful they will be met in full.

At last count, there were around 1,000 of these, with a further 1,200 as technically defined pensioners but not yet of pensionable age.

One member who has escaped the full impact of disaster is 59-year-old Rex Purcell, who lives near Woking.

Mr Purcell joined the company in 1975 and worked for subsidiary Admel as an HGV driver for 19 years but left

a couple of years before the parent company went under.

He took a lump sum payment before AM collapsed but is concerned that the balance of his pension, about £3,300 a year, could be in jeopardy.

"I realise that funds don't always show an asset situation," Mr Purcell said, "but I think that the government should accept some responsibility if things go the wrong way. There should still be safeguards in place, even if company funds are wound up."

But omens are not particularly rosy. Penny Green of the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service, which gives information to Britain's 22.5 million members, says: "When a pension fund is wound up, it normally comes out worse rather than better."

"The majority of funds seem to end up in deficit rather than surplus when the axe falls. The deficit is due mainly to the cost of buying deferred annuities for pensioners. This, and the costs of pensions equalisation, can make a big impact."

"If the fund's liabilities, just for example, emerge at £25m, then there will be a £5m deficit. Some independent trustees' costs also have a negative impact."

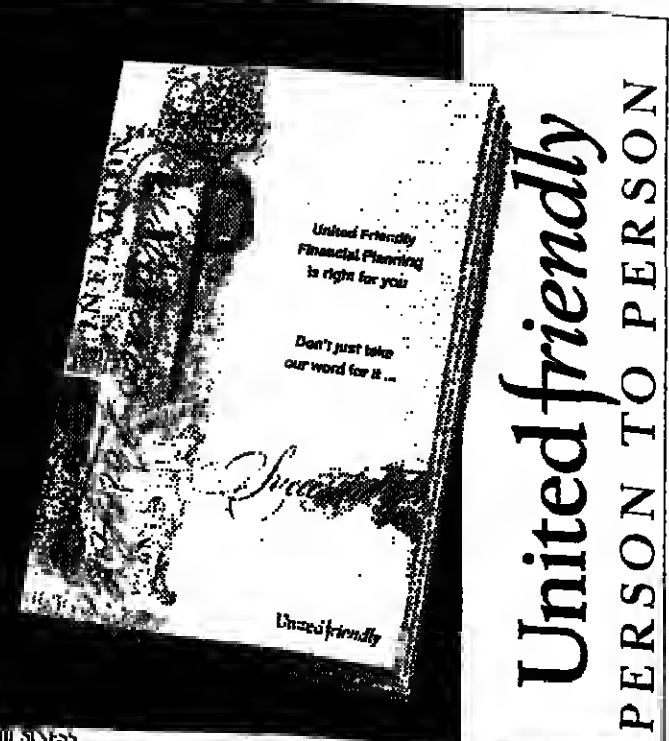
The new Pensions Act, which makes its debut at the beginning of the new tax year, represents one of the greatest upheavals in pensions law for a century.

Most big companies are already making changes to accommodate it, the main thrust being in switching from final salary schemes, which calculate your pension as a percentage of your final pay packet, to money purchase schemes, which invest your cash to buy an annuity when you retire, with no guarantee of what you will eventually get.

Financial planning: 5 free quotations.

Call for our free guide and read 5 very different United Friendly clients explaining, in their own words, how we're helping them use their money wisely.

Call 0800 806 608 anytime.



United friendly PERSON TO PERSON

THE UNITED FRIENDLY FINANCIAL GROUP IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY FOR LIFE ASSURANCE, PENSION FUNDS, UNIT TRUSTS, INVESTMENT SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT ADVICE. UNITED FRIENDLY FINANCIAL TRUSTS ARE ALSO REGULATED BY IMRO IN THE CONDUCT OF INVESTMENT BUSINESS.

مكتبة الامم

A guaranteed gamble

Do investors in these bonds know the odds? Michael Drewett explains

Following the Nick Leeson fiasco, the word "derivative" is liable to bring investors out in a cold sweat. But correctly used, derivatives can be very useful either for betting on profits or protecting against losses when stock or bond markets move in a volatile way. Indeed, the rash of bonds, offering steady income or promises of capital growth based on how stock markets perform, which are being hawked by an increasing number of companies, depend on derivative instruments to work.

But these investments are attracting criticism from several quarters. The problem with these bonds is not that they do not work, rather the way they have been advertised and sold. Specifically, there are concerns that traditional building society investors may have been unfairly seduced by "guarantees" of high tax-paid income without being adequately aware that their capital may be at risk. That said, for someone who understands exactly what is on offer and is happy with the risks, there are some deals around which are potentially very attractive.

There are three main types, all of which involve a small part of what you invest being put aside to take a bet against the movement of stock markets over periods of up to six years.

The recent offering from Abbey Life guarantees to pay back your money, say £10,000, after six years plus the greater of a 40 per cent bonus or 50 per cent of any rise in the FTSE 100 over the period. The basis of calculating the stock market's performance is without dividends. As the reinvestment of dividend income often fuels much of the growth in a portfolio this may seem mean. But by not passing on those monies the issuing company can buy derivative instruments to guarantee the 40 per cent minimum profit even if the market crashes.

Legal & General's Election Bond is variation on the same theme. It puts the bulk of the money on deposit to accumulate and the balance is used to buy options to enhance any rise in the stock market by 40 per cent. The capital is repaid in full only after five years, there is no dividend income in the meantime and any gains are based on a four-year period, because the base and the

finishing points are averaged over the first and last years.

Swiss Life's offer, available until the end of the month, is typical of option two: your money will be returned at the end of the period with a bonus of 60 per cent of the original investment, but only if the FTSE 100 and the Standard and Poor's indices are no lower at the end of the investment period than at the start.

David Wright, financial services director of Croydon-based independent advisers Johnstone Douglas, said: "At first sight this may seem to be a better deal - but only because the numbers are bigger. Cynics might question why the investor has to punt on two indices rather than one. Swiss Life says that if they fall by 5 per cent or

more investors will at least get their original money back, and there is a sliding scale for payouts if the index falls between 0 per cent and 5 per cent. But if prices fall 6 per cent or more, then the whole 60 per cent bonus certainly disappears."

Swiss Life offers an income option whereby the investor can trade in the prospective 60 per cent capital bonus for an annual income throughout the period of 10.75 per cent net of basic rate tax. But if the stock markets' performance fails to strike, the amount of capital returned at the end could be severely depleted. This is because the "guarantee" of paying back no less than the original capital includes any income paid out. So if an investment of £10,000 yielded £1,075 for five years (£5,250)

and one or both of the relevant indices fell by more than 5 per cent, all Swiss Life would pay back at the end would be the balance of the original £10,000. In other words £4,750.

Another variation on offer from Eurolife pays 10.3 per cent net income on investments up to £25,000, or a 72 per cent bonus after six years, provided neither the FTSE nor the Dow Jones falls over that period. Six years is a better bet than five, given the long-term trend of markets to rise, but if either falls all you get back is your original capital, less any income you took.

In each variant, the key feature is whether or not you regard it as acceptable to take a gamble over the medium term on UK or US stock markets - or in many cases both. For

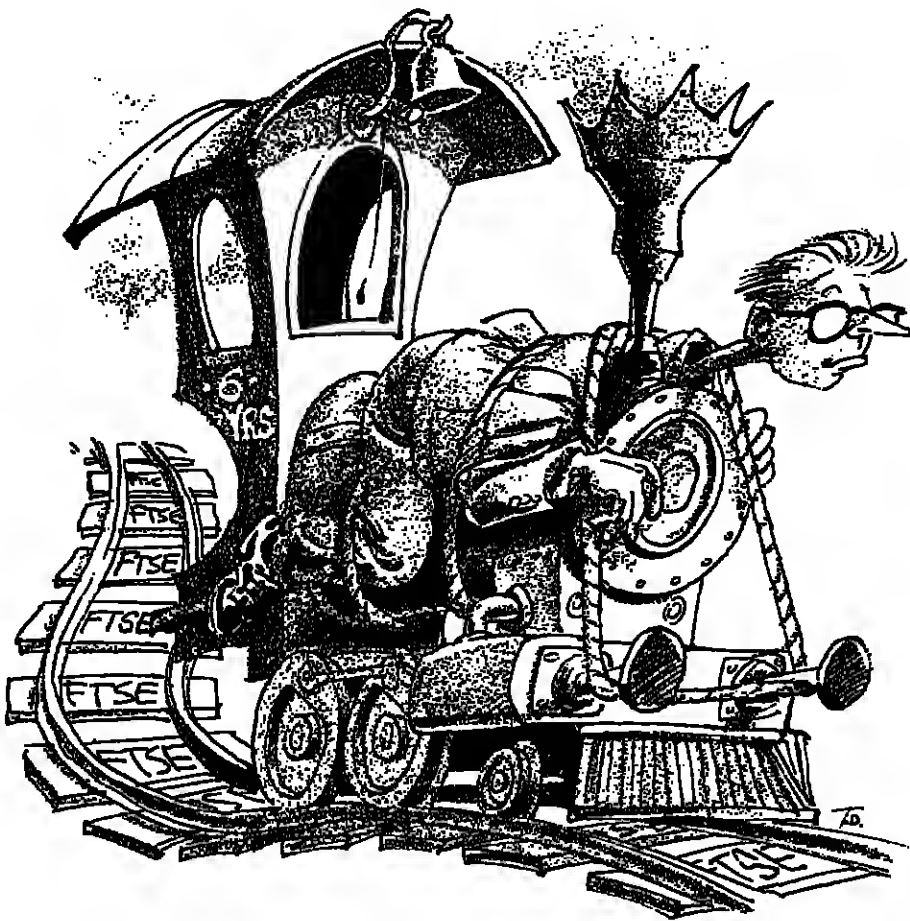
some, this may be acceptable. But if there is any chance you may need to come out before the end of the predetermined term these bonds should be avoided at all costs. Because of the way the derivative instruments work, surrender values, mid-term, can range from extremely disappointing to downright horrendous. If you get back more than half what you invested in circumstances of early surrender you may be doing very well indeed.

Yet despite the potential drawbacks, tranches of these stock market-related investment bonds are being released in ever growing numbers. John Owen, from Nottingham advisers, the Building Society and Pensions Shop, said: "The closing date for each issued bond can act as a spur to many people to 'buy while stocks last', but this is not the way to approach it. As soon as one offer closes another will open, so there is no need to be panicked into buying."

Scottish Life International have yet another option available until 31 January. For each individual year that the US and UK markets do not fall, up to six years, 17 per cent of the original investment will be added to the investment. The total possible value after six years, therefore, is 202 per cent of what goes in. And whatever happens to stock markets the minimum return is 134 per cent of the original. The catch, if it can be called that, is that the maximum return depends on the index for each individual year remaining stable or increasing.

Earlier this month Financial Assurance launched a product paying out an income of 8.25 per cent net of basic rate tax and guaranteeing a full return of capital as long as the FTSE 100 and the S&P 500 do not fall by more than 20 per cent over five and a half years. The penalty for performance being worse than the necessary "striking point" will be the usual loss of around 50 per cent of the underlying capital, but at least this particular offer combines a regular return currently far in excess of most deposit accounts with a reasonable safety net for the capital.

Before taking up any offer it is vital to understand the small print. A few hours with an independent adviser specialising in this complex area could be the best investment of all.



SELLING YOUR ENDOWMENT? FOR BIGGER MONEY

CALL SEC NOW
0181 207 1666

SEC, Britain's biggest buyer of endowments will pay you much more than the surrender value.
Phone our helpful staff now for that extra cash and peace of mind. Your policy must be at least 8 years old and satisfy our selection criteria. FAX: 0181 207 4950
AP SECURITISED ENDOWMENT CONTRACTS PLC
MM SEC House, 49 Theobald St, Borehamwood, Herts WD9 4WZ

SEC

WITH-PROFITS BOND

An investment opportunity with guaranteed peace of mind.

Investing on the stock market can often be extremely lucrative. You may be able to achieve a much higher rate of return than that offered by a fixed interest savings account. But there is an element of risk involved. You could also lose money rather than make money.

The Equitable Life's With-Profits Bond reduces the risk. If you have £500 or more to invest, you can place it in a managed fund of assets comprising equities, properties and fixed interest securities.

Whatever future market conditions are like, we guarantee that at the fifth and subsequent anniversaries you can encash the bond for at least the original value of the contractual benefits.

Over the long term, however, such a mixed portfolio of assets offers the prospect of a real capital growth.

If you'd like to know how to make more of your savings without disturbing your peace of mind, call (0990) 38 48 58 or return the coupon below for information by post and by telephone.

www.equitable.co.uk

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WILTON STREET, AVESBURY, WILTS HP21 7BR
I would welcome information on the Equitable With-Profits Bond ☐ INBATA

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____
ADDRESS _____
Tel (Office) _____
Tel (Home) _____
Date of Birth _____
Postcode _____



The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

Choose to pay nothing and show you care...

...by carrying one of these no fee Credit Cards.

Carry one of these Cards and show you really care about your favourite charity. Every time you use your Card, Bank of Scotland* will donate vital royalties to your chosen charity - at no extra cost to you.* As well as supporting an excellent cause, you will also enjoy a superb range of financial benefits.

- Competitive 18.5% APR (20.3% for Cash Advances)
- No fee in first year and every year if you spend over £2,000 annually*
- Purchase protection†
- PLUS...A saving of up to £60 when you transfer your existing credit card balance (excluding other Cards issued by Bank of Scotland).

So show that you care by calling us for an Application Form today on 0800 413 966 - or simply return the coupon below.

CALL FREE ON

0800 413 966

quoting ref: XXXX

Alternatively, our Internet address is www.charitycard.co.uk



*Your personal charity will receive an initial payment from the Bank of Scotland when you first use your Card and £3.00 if it is still in use after 20 months, plus 25p for every £100 spent.†If you do pay a fee in a month, £7.50.
†Insurance of full policy details available on request.
All lending is subject to approval by the Bank of Scotland's financial status. Full details and written Consumer Credit questions are available from Bank of Scotland Lending Services, Parkside, Parkside, Dundee, DD1 1AA. You must be aged 18 or over and resident in the UK to apply.
*Bank of Scotland and the Bank's logo are registered Trade Marks of The Commercial and Industrial Bank of Scotland.

Complete and send to: Charity MasterCard, FREEPOST, RG 222, Reading RG1 1BR.
Please send me an application form for my charity MasterCard.
Please tick the box next to the Card you'd like to carry:

☐ Scottish NPLA (Registered Charity No. SC006647) ☐ British Red Cross (Registered Charity No. 220449)
☐ RSPCA (Registered Charity No. 219098) ☐ St 11 Action For Children (Registered Charity No. 215301)
☐ Marie Curie (Registered Charity No. 207944)

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____ Telephone No: _____



We aim to raise £500,000 for the RSPCA and are now launching a Card to mark just as hard for the SSPCA.



Helping families cope with the effects of cancer.



Caring for those in crisis across the UK and overseas.



Helping over 17,000 children in need every year.

The Index-Tracking PEP that performs the best

(also costs the least)

| INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE* | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| | NOV 95 to JAN 97 | ANNUAL CHARGE GROWTH |
| Legal & General | 0.50% | 22.41% |
| Virgin | 1.00% | 22.29% |
| HSBC | 1.00% | 22.00% |
| Kleinwort Benson | 1.00% | 21.27% |
| Average UK Income & Growth Trust | — | 13.47% |

A glance at the table will show that - since its launch one year ago - the Index-Tracking PEP from Legal & General has proved that it offers PEP investors unbeatable value for money.

It follows the FTSE All-Share Index. This Index reflects the performance of the entire stockmarket, so it removes the risk of being over-exposed to shares which underperform and lessen your return.

In fact, £6,000 invested in the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP last year would now be worth £7,344* compared to just £6,808 in the average UK Income & Growth Trust. And there's still time to invest this financial year.

Unbeatable costs...

At just 0.5% p.a., you won't find a cheaper Index-Tracking PEP anywhere else. And there are still no initial charges or withdrawal fees to pay.

To find out more about the UK's best value Index-Tracking PEP, call now, or return the coupon below.

Alternatively, you can contact us at <http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk>

The Index-Tracking PEP
0500 11 66 22

FREEPHONE 9am to 8pm WEEKDAYS 9am to 5pm WEEKENDS PLEASE QUOTE REF: A4DJ10

or your protection calls will usually be recorded and randomly monitored.

*Source: LEGAL on an offer to bid basis based on all PEP charges with gross income re-invested from 1st 11/95 (since launch) to 31/11/97. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. Tax assumptions are those currently applicable and are subject to statutory change. The value of tax relief will depend on your individual circumstances. Full written details are available on request. All statements are correct as at 01/11/97. Legal & General (Direct) Limited, Registered in England No. 2703041 Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 3AF. AEP Representative only of the Legal & General Group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name.

Post to: Legal & General (Direct) Limited, FREEPOST SWC0167, Cardiff CF1 1YW.

Please send me full written details of the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP.

SURNAME (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____

FORENAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

TEL No 1 Home _____ TEL No 2 Work _____

If you already have any PEP investment, please tick here ☐

We may telephone you to make sure information requested has arrived safely. Now, and then we can tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please tick here ☐





An Andalucian nightmare

Daphne Gooch tried to sell her Spanish house privately

Daphne Gooch left Britain in 1952 to spend some time travelling. She took a boat to Australia, arriving with just £12 in her pocket, and spent the next couple of years working her way around the bush with a mobile X-ray unit. Once the excitement had worn off she decided to head for Singapore, where there was a war on. Initially she worked for a TB clinic, then for Special Branch, and after getting married she lived in Kenya and Berlin. With two children to raise she moved back to Britain, but her wanderlust never left her and in later years she fell in love with Spain...

"One day, in 1987, I heard through word of mouth about a little place on the Costa del Sol that had come up for sale at a very good price. It needed a lot of work – it was a real shell of a

My biggest mistake

place – but it was a project which I relished. I had a lot of friends who were sculptors and artists, and I planned to turn it into the sort of house where I could hold exhibitions.

I got it for a bargain price and spent a considerable amount of time and money doing it up, refurbishing it in traditional Andalucian style and fulfilling my ambition to display the work of my friends to the public.

I really enjoyed the challenge, but by 1991 I had decided to sell it. It wasn't really big enough for me to live in for as much of the year as I would have liked.

It was around that time that I was introduced to an English expatriate who said he would like to rent the place. I let it to him on a short-term contract, and within months he decided he would like to buy it.

He had more than half the money in cash but needed a mortgage for the rest, so he applied to a building society in Gibraltar.

Together we went to see his lawyer, who handled the sale and – in theory – drew up a contract to protect me which stated that if the balance wasn't paid within four months, the property would revert to me.

The buyer seemed a pleasant enough chap at first, but four months later he still hadn't paid up. I got in contact with the lawyer and asked for a copy of the contract, but he

demauded £1,500. It took more than two years for the case to come to court, but eventually the judge said that if I returned 40 per cent of this man's deposit the house would revert to me. Naturally I agreed. However, less than a week later he had put in an appeal.

It took almost two years for the case to come to court again. Meanwhile he had moved out and let the house to various other people, so I was bearing all the expenses, the tax, the insurance, the community fees and so on, while he was getting the benefit of the rent.

At last the date of the court case arrived, and again the judge decided in my favour. But when an official went to the house, the man's sister-in-law produced a five-

year rental contract which his lawyer had made out to her.

My lawyer advised against going back to court, because the contract is due to expire later this year and it would have taken longer than that for the case to be heard again. Aside from that, it would have cost even more money in legal fees.

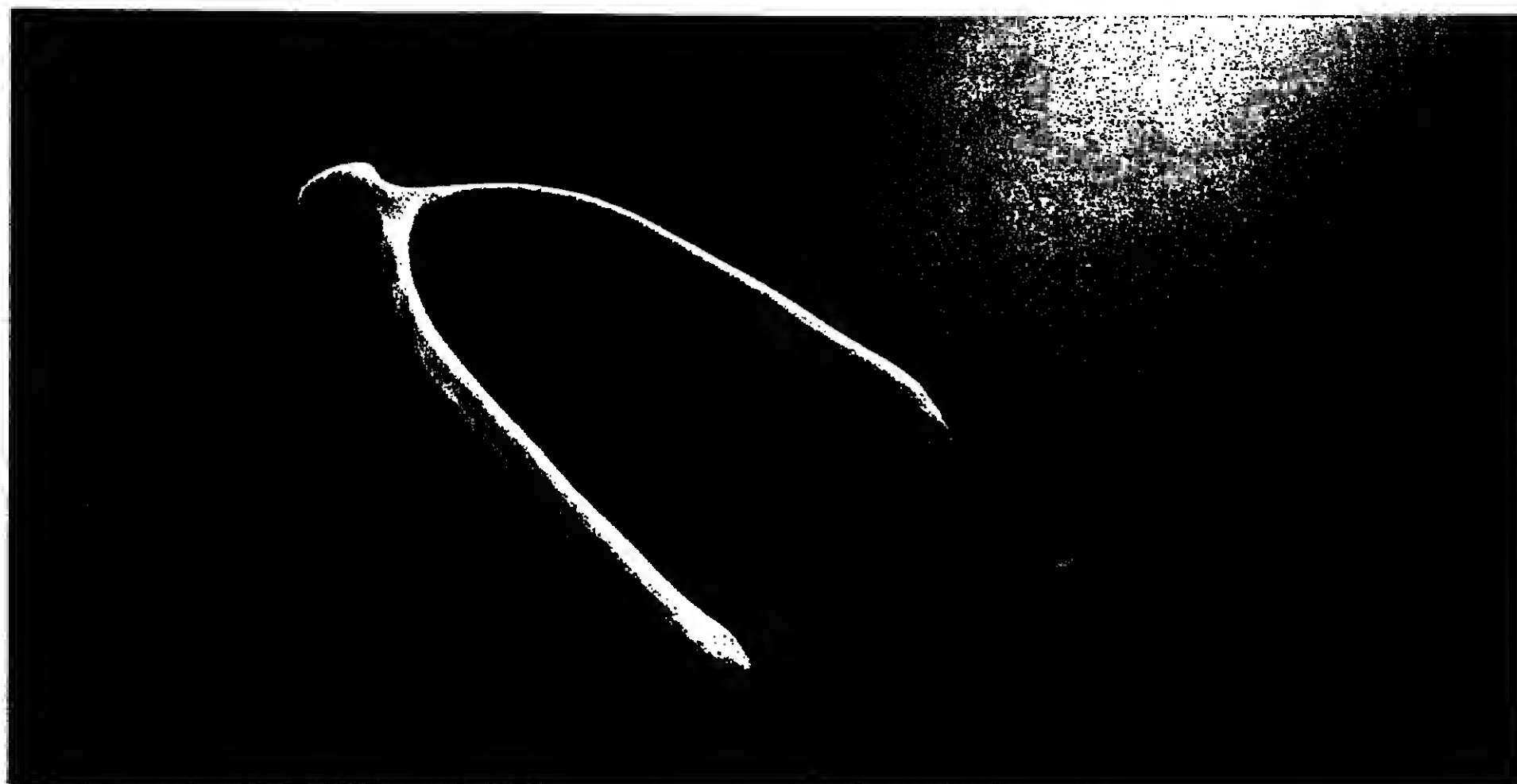
By this time the house had been sub-let again, so when the tenant left last March, I had some friends change all the security locks. But within a matter of weeks the locks were smashed, so presumably the house was occupied again.

I've been through five years of hell, having this hanging over my head. It seems so unfair, because I did everything by the letter of the law. It is, however, a matter which is alarmingly common. I have since found out that there

are tens of thousands of cases like mine. All I can hope for now is that when the rental contract ends, my nightmare will be over and the house will revert to me so that I can try to sell it again.

This time I'll go through a reputable estate agent; I won't be trusting a private sale. And I would certainly think very carefully before buying a home overseas again. It's madness to spend your capital on a property when you can't be there to look after it all the time, particularly when there are so many villas and apartments available at reasonable rents."

Daphne Gooch was talking to Corinne Simcock.
* Last week's interview said Michael Aspel had lost £620,000 on an investment. The correct figure was £20,000.



OR CHOOSE THE ONLY PENSION WITH A TWO YEAR, 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

You don't have to trust to luck when arranging your pension. Simply call our Pensions by Phone service free on 0800 77 66 66.

It's the easy way to get help and advice, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You'll never be under any pressure to buy. And when you are ready to go ahead you'll be protected by our unique 100% Satisfaction Guarantee.

So if you are not entirely satisfied with our service at anytime within the next two years, we'll transfer your pension fund to any other company you choose, and refund our fees and charges in full.

Pensions by Phone. From Eagle Star. It's everything you could wish for from a pension. Guaranteed.



EAGLE STAR

PENSIONS BY PHONE
0800 77 66 66
24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK

For your protection, your call to Eagle Star may be recorded. Eagle Star Life Assurance Company Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Information or advice will only be provided on Eagle Star products.



fear of finance

I took the Government and the media about 40 minutes this week to realise that if Gordon Brown keeps his promise not to raise the standard or higher rates of income tax during Labour's first term in power, there are another 200 possible tax variations that can be used to raise the overall level of tax.

Many City experts think that total taxation will have to rise to balance the budget whichever party wins the election. The budget deficit is still uncomfortably high at this stage of the cycle.

If the deficit is bad now, it is certain to get worse when the economic cycle turns down, the economy slows and tax revenues stagnate, as they all must at some stage in the next five years. Anyone who promises not to raise income tax rates in five years is effectively serving notice that sooner or later some other taxes will have to rise, or public sector borrowing will have to be increased to fund the gap, something which would send the City into orbit.

The only other option is not just to hold public sector spending for the first two years, as Mr Brown has committed himself to do, but to make further cuts in existing programmes, something which even Mr Brown would find difficult. Quite apart from the protests from traditional Labour supporters, who tend to be the hardest hit by spending cuts, 18 years of Tory rule have cut out much obvious waste.

If it is other taxes which take the strain, where will they fall? The Treasury might advise the chancellor to lead an increase on National Insurance contributions, which are supposed to pay for pensions and the health service but in fact are an income tax in all but name. A Labour chancellor might pass off an extra 2p in the pound on NI contributions as a move towards funding a universal extra pension, but hardly anyone would fail to see through the ploy.

Another possible

Treasury wheeze would be further reductions in tax-free allowances, including everything from personal allowances and married couple's allowances to mortgage tax relief. But here again the majority of people would fail to appreciate the fine difference between paying higher income tax rates and paying more income tax because allowances had been removed.

Corporation tax rates could be increased but the Labour Party's honeymoon with business would not survive that. The windfall tax on privatised monopolies might raise £5bn but this is meant to be a one-off levy.

The next-best option is to increase the yield on VAT, but surely the Labour Party has boxed itself in there too. It can neither raise the standard rate above the current 17.5 per cent nor can it extend coverage on to currently untaxed items without doing precisely what it has regularly condemned the Tories for doing.

Excise duties are a busted flush by now. Higher taxes on tobacco are just as likely to reduce the yield as they are to raise it because it discourages consumption and the same may soon apply to alcohol where higher duties simply encourage more cross-Channel trips for cheap French booze.

The remaining options are to put a much heavier load on minor taxes, including capital gains and inheritance tax, put a ceiling on PEP allowances, or find a new source of taxation, such as a tax on telephone calls. Another option would be to shave the tax privileges of investment funds and pension funds. Again voters would very quickly realise that their pockets were being hit just as surely as by income tax increases, and increased taxes on investment funds would directly undermine the policy of encouraging everyone to provide for their own pensions and long-term care.

THE INDEPENDENT Free Pension Planning Guide

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

A 52 page guide telling you everything you need to know about planning your pension.

Mr/Ms/Ms...

Address...

Postcode...

Tel.

Please phone now 0800 137 372 or complete the coupon and return (no stamp required) to:

The Independent Equitable Life Guide

Freepost PO Box 7, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9BR

صكمان الدامل

Whatever happened to...

Zola Budd?

The date 1984. Thirteen years ago this week a girl of 17, running barefoot in the South African veldt, breaks the 5,000m world record.

The problem it doesn't count. Although she's very nice, and South Africa is a beautiful place, it also happens to play host to a repressive apartheid regime, shunned by most of the world.

The solution Britain comes to the rescue. The Daily Mail flies Budd to London in February

1984, wrapping the Union Jack (metaphorically) around her. Suddenly, she's British - in just 23 days, joining that fine line of British sportsmen - Graeme Hick and Greg Rusedski - who aren't. That great British tradition of bringing foreign bodies into the blood line to cover our own lack of home-grown talent.

The 1984 Olympics might have had something to do with her nationality papers being rushed through - just in time for the big showdown with the US ath-

lete, and favourite, Mary Decker. Rounding the corner in the fifth lap of the 3,000m final in the Los Angeles Coliseum, Decker catches Budd's heel. The crowd holds its breath, then gasps as she tumbles to the ground. Decker stays prostrate on the track and Budd trails in seventh to the accompaniment of boos from the 85,000 home crowd.

The aftermath. Some think it's scripted to give the Olympics their regular big story (Russian

cheating in 1980. Ben Johnson in 1988). Certainly, Decker fails to get up and cries. Budd seems perfectly genuine in making an attempt to apologise to Decker in the tunnel afterwards, only for Decker to tell her "don't bother".

That final is the end of her. She loses to Decker regularly in 1985 and her life is constantly disrupted by people not very pleased about the fact their citizenship takes two years rather than 23 days. Or that black people are without basic human

rights in her former home. Protesters force her to leave the course at a race in Durban in 1988 and, soon after, the country. But a return to South Africa seems the best thing. Marriage in 1989, to Mike Pieterse, a South African businessman, at last appears to bring happiness to one area of her life.

Although... her father isn't very happy. He'd made a considerable fortune out of taking her to Britain. At one point the US had been considered with its

vastly superior training facilities, but the higher newspaper fees in the UK had persuaded him otherwise. He rather spoils the wedding by announcing: "I no longer have a daughter called Zola. To me she's dead and I curse her." They split. Her father's influence is weakened further when five months later he's found murdered.

Now By the time of a Decker-Budd re-match in 1992 they're both mature people who can accept what happened. They're

also crap, and this tempts (my additional excitement when Budd runs for the new South Africa in 1994. Still, some things never change: Decker clips the heel of a runner at the 1996 American trials. Budd herself is running again: in Tokyo last weekend. And the Government still welcome anyone seeking immigration with open arms. As long as they might be able to break a few world records. And they're not black.

James Aftenast



Serena Mackesy
In my week

I've always wondered if the touted investment potential of the Star Trek plate had any bearing on reality. I think I have the answer now

You've got to admire the earth signs. Collecting wouldn't be the same without their keep-the-receipt thought processes. Air signs lose things as soon as look at them. Waters ruthlessly jettison without thought for nostalgia. Fires have abundant sentimentality, but they accumulate rather than collect. The last time I looked under my sofa, the accumulation of dust bunnies was showing signs of developing its own ecosystem.

Not so the earths. If there is one thing a Taurus needs, it's storage space. Give a Virgo a dry room and he'll fill it with the packaging from his hi-fi. Capricorns delight in making less organised individuals squirm by telling them about their colour-coded filing systems. Only an earth sign is capable, even as a child, of keeping the boxes that toys come in.

The earthly fruits of earthly pursuits were on show at Phillips, the auctioneers, on Tuesday when they held a sale of toy soldiers. One of my Virgo relics had a batch of assorted Zulus in it. In the upstairs sale room in Bayswater, entire regiments were piled on tables, in glass-fronted cabinets, on the floor, in Pizza Hut delivery boxes.

Unsurprisingly, the majority of the punters were male and on the senior side of 40. Half wore suits, the others anoraks. The three other women I spotted amidst the throng, though, seemed to possess Asperger's Syndrome levels of knowledge. They were bossy, too. They dragged young men from cabinet to cabinet, firing off questions they couldn't answer. "Why," said a wild-haired lady in a beret, before a display of khaki-clad crawling mannikins, guns pointed at towel-wrapped Arabs, "haven't they got fixed bayonets? I thought everything from that period had fixed bayonets?" "Um," he replied. The other two, grey-haired and a little military themselves, peered at a parade of Grenadier guards. "The catalogue says they're touched up, but I can't see where." "Tchuh. There. Third

row, three from the left. His right arm's about two shades out." "Oh, yes."

There's something compelling about a toy soldier: the lead ones, at least. I never got to play with the ones at home, which came out, Narnia-like, from the attic for convoluted war games, once a summer. Watching the battle of Waterloo re-enacted in the celandine patch, matchsticks flying from tiny cannons, is one of those things that stays in your mind. The plastic ones we were allowed to poke each other in the eye with, never had the same romance.

But then, who needs romance when you're collecting? What you need is a cheque book and a poker face. By the time the sale got under way, most of the suits had evaporated: evidently they had been owners gloating over the value of their own toys. As is generally the way of the world, what suits remained had colonised the forward rows.



Every other seat was filled: tiers of glassy stares which slipped slyly to the notes scrawled in the next-door catalogue. I joined a line of flat-caps at the back, sneaked my own little peek at the man to my left. He had put his own estimates beside Phillips's, and bid scrupulously up to and no further than two-thirds of these. Scarcely a sound rose above the auctioneer's cries of "all gone at £170"; people weren't going as far as winking, but the little dabs of hand in air were scarcely perceptible to the untrained eye. Or even, for that matter, to a trained one. After one lot was knocked down, a punter objected. "Excuse me," he said, "I was bidding there." "Oh,"

replied the auctioneer, "Sorry. Didn't see that. Shout or wave or something next time."

The surprises came thick and fast. Those metal chappies are old hat, it seems, in the world of models. I watched aghast as other people's childhood fantasies barely reached estimates. Lots of empty boxes, meanwhile, went for £140 to £200 - double expected prices. Now, those were obviously the product of an earth sign with an air moon: store the packaging and lose the original contents. Gratiatingly, those models produced specifically for the collectors' market were snailing it. I've always wondered if the touted investment potential of the Star Trek plate had any bearing on reality. I think I have the answer now.

And then came the plastics. You probably had some yourself as a child: farm animals, knights, cowboys and Indians. These set off a bidding frenzy. Five tepees, estimated at £70-£100, went for £550, a set of

Timpo Romans for the same. Some British bowmen fetched £300, while knights on horseback galloped off for the princely sum of £620. Little murmurs ran through the crowd. I wagged my eyebrows at a man with pince-nez and he wagged his back. And then he spent £380 on an assortment of 18-century cannon and their fodder.

After that, things turned sad. A set of scenes by a deceased amateur modeller, Douglas Parsons, came up. They had been my favourites during the viewing, each face a delight: medieval, scurvy-wracked peasants, an elephant who was obviously loving trampling the enemy. The room emptied. Those who remained bid a lackadaisical £40, here, £50 there. They perked up enough to go up to £550 for a 20-scene history of the Royal Navy, but otherwise the effort of raising their hands seemed too much. Just think you have the choice of a work of art or Hong Kong's finest, and you fight for the lump of plastic. Then again, the art didn't have its original boxes.

Stop putting your awe in

Speaking for myself, it'll come as a relief when this century is over and we can stop looking back at it: there are days when it feels like I'm going to get a crick in my neck. And talking of pains in the neck brings us swiftly to 20/20: A Vision of the Century (Radio 4, Wednesday), the 20-part thematic history that Michael Ignatieff has now taken over from John Tusa - a bad idea, largely because it seems fairly clear Michael Ignatieff doesn't much like the 20th century. True, towards the end of his first programme - on the theme of "constructing" - he talked about the thrill of being in New York: "You can feel, if only for a second, that you'd rather be living here and now, in this century, than in any other." Only for a second, though: for the rest of the time, the 20th century is all hubris, paradox and failure.

He found his first "paradox" standing, awe-struck and supposedly terrified (I don't actually believe in that terror). In the gigantic particle accelerators of CERN, a space "the size of Notre Dame cathedral"; "It ought to be the case



Robert Hanks
the week on radio

that what we build with our own hands we should understand and feel at home in." Ought it? I don't really see why. I don't really see that awe is, as Ignatieff claimed, something that used to be "reserved for the works of nature or the handiworks of God", that awe at human achievements is a novelty of our own time - Notre Dame cathedral itself is a pretty good counter-example, and there are plenty of others (you doubt that Ignatieff would express the same unease about the terror inspired by King Lear or

Euripides' Medea: is inspiring terror a privilege reserved for artists?). He could have argued more plausibly that awe was once reserved for building built to glorify God (though you'd have to find a way of fitting coliseums and palaces into your argument); but even so, what's the problem with atom-smashing? CERN wasn't built to glorify creation but to try to understand it, which seems like a healthy sort of urge.

When he wasn't slugging off science, he was slugging off modern architecture, and showing a breathtaking intellectual laziness. Lumping together Speer's massive neoclassicism with the slender, gleaming art deco of the Chrysler Building in New York with the tag "Different ideologies, same result" suggests either sheer bloody ignorance or partiality that isn't interested in even trying to be objective. The title of the series, 20/20, suggests clarity of vision; but you can't see anything if you're not prepared to open your eyes.

A more interesting critique of the 20th century came in In

the Kingdom of Klein (Radio 4, Thursday), which had Simon Dring buzzing admirably around General Jacques Klein, who runs the UN Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia. Here, at the end of the century, democracy and technology seem to have run out of steam, leaving General Klein to keep the peace and rebuild prosperity by sheer force of personality.

You didn't doubt that he could do it, either, once you'd heard him powering his way through meetings and telephone calls, oblivious to bureaucratic niceties. Dring's mannered, self-consciously colourful prose style can be distracting - introducing Klein at the start of the programme, he described "Fingers as thick as the Havana cigar clenched in his fist... I just know he's either going to brief me or deploy me." Here, given the appalling statistics described and the Klein's bulldozing lucidity, it seemed tame. A fine programme, and evidence that if you look in the right places, the 20th century can be a source of inspiration.

The cathode-ray nipple

Sharon Stone disclosed on Raby Wax Meets... (BBC1, Mon) that she prefers to date men who "vibrate with reality". Presumably your jaw gave the floor an almighty thwack at that point too. You were still wondering what on earth the phrase meant when Stone popped up later that night on Film 97 (BBC1, Mon), in a location report from the Golden Globes. There she was, on the arm of a man whose other arm, just out of shot, was doubtless trying to lead reality into a triple Nelson.

A reporter from behind the crash barrier asked Stone what she thought of the Globes. "I just love them," she drooled. "They gave me one!" (Her phrase; no one else's). She knew they had given her one because last year she went home after the ceremony and actually saw them giving her one on television. Television, she told Wax, "is what makes it real for me". Maybe that's all wrestling with reality is: sitting on your sofa and watching passively as television processes and packages the mess of experience. In which case, it's a non-contact sport that calls for even lower reserves of fitness than snooker.

The idea that television has an active role in validating the world it contains is less subver-



Jasper Rees
the week on television

sive than it used to be. "Television is reality," claimed the Marshall McLuhan figure in David Cronenberg's Videodrome (BBC2, Sun). That was a horror film made as recently as 1982, but you'd never scare anyone with the concept in 1997, when real-life stories are sifted and sorted into presentable narratives more routinely than ever before.

disastrous British Army expedition to the Malaysian jungle, it will now leap through the various hoops of television throws in the way of tales of derring-do it hasn't had the audacity to make up. Straight after the rescue comes the rapid-response interview, followed by the documentary, and finally the drama, each less raw and immediate than the last.

Place of the Dead (ITV, Sun) came two years after the 999 Special on the same subject, three days before Return to Place of the Dead (ITV, Tues). All three purported to tell the truth, to reconstruct reality, but with the demands of their own genre to obey there were discrepancies between fact and "fiction". The leeches, for example, that sucked the blood of the soldiers in the drama were notably plumper than the ones in the documentary. As with the insufferable hero in Harry Enfield and Chums (BBC1, Tues) whose anecdote about some tedious mishap strayed ever further from the facts every time he repeated it, retelling induces swelling. The close-up of one plump leech gorging on a soldier's flesh was a tidy metaphor for television's parasitic relationship with the entire expedition.

While Place of the Dead dramatised their escape, Return

to Place of the Dead followed two of the survivors back into the heart of darkness. One of them went back specifically to locate the valedictory video he'd made for his son when he thought he was going to die. Fancy that: a film about recovering a film; the hunt for the validating video. Place of the Dead, meanwhile, included a risible dream sequence in which one of the NCOs writhed in a rock pool with his wife. She was draped in a diaphanous wet shirt, no doubt because the film-makers had wrestled with the reality of prime-time broadcasting that says give the viewers what they want.

The preposterous Holly-wood Lovers (ITV, Wed) focused on the phenomenon of the trophy bride. Not a single man would put his head above the parapet and defend the despicable practice of trading in sagging old wives for sleeker younger designs. In fact, the only man prepared to discuss matrimony in Tinseltown at all was an old guy who dresses up as a woman. At least he was still in his first marriage, but then it would be doubly hypocritical of an old man who dresses up as an old woman to seek a prettier replacement. But he'd be an ideal catch for Sharon Stone, because no one wrestles with reality as profoundly as a transvestite.

DAMIAN HURTS...and his painfully creative struggle by Kerber

WOW...IT'S BRILLIANT MAN...I LOVE IT!!!

IT'S SO ALIVE!!!

WHERE DID YOU GET THE IDEA FROM?

I WON IT AT A FAIR, THEN PUT IT IN A BOWL.

Weather The British Isles Europe and The World AA Roadwatch The Sky at Night

General Situation and 5-Day Outlook:

High pressure will dominate the weather over the next few days with the main centre eventually becoming established over the British Isles.

Today, patchy freezing fog around Scotland will disappear, and many places are going to get some sunshine with light winds. However, it will be cloudier and breezier in the far northwest and over the islands with light rain possible. Northern Ireland should get some sunshine and light winds once any patchy fog has cleared, but it will become cloudier. Most of England and Wales will be cloudy after a misty or foggy start, but the southeast should see some sunshine.

Sunday will provide plenty of cloudy weather after a misty or foggy start while light rain spreads south across Scotland and into Northern Ireland.

A scattering of light showers is expected on Monday, but many places will be dry with at least some sunshine. Tuesday and Wednesday should then see fine dry weather everywhere with sunshine and patchy cloud. It will be breezy on some coasts, but winds will be mostly light, leading to night frost.

Abandon c 6 43 Cardiff c 7 45 Ipswich c 8 46 Oxford c 6 43
Aberdeen dr 8 46 Carlisle c 7 41 Isles of Scilly f 11 52 Plymouth c 8 46
Aldershot dr 8 46 Dover c 6 43 Jersey f 6 43 Plymouth c 8 46
Ayr dr 7 45 Dublin c 11 52 Liverpool f 5 41
Belfast dr 7 45 Edinburgh c 7 48 London f 9 48
Blackpool c 8 46 Exeter c 7 45 London f 9 48
Bournemouth f 9 48 Glasgow dr 9 48 Manchester c 7 45
Brighton c 8 46 Guernsey f 7 45 Newcastle f 7 45
Bristol f 9 48 Inverness c 6 43 Nottingham c 6 43 York f 7 45

Lighting up Times

Today London 4:37pm to 7:47pm
Bristol 4:46pm to 7:57pm
Birmingham 4:41pm to 7:51pm
Manchester 4:38pm to 7:48pm
Newcastle 4:29pm to 7:39pm
Glasgow 4:36pm to 7:46pm
Belfast 4:48pm to 7:58pm

Tomorrow London 4:39pm to 7:49pm
Bristol 4:48pm to 7:58pm
Birmingham 4:43pm to 7:53pm
Manchester 4:40pm to 7:50pm
Newcastle 4:31pm to 7:41pm
Glasgow 4:38pm to 7:48pm
Belfast 4:50pm to 8:00pm

Yesterday's Readings

NO₂ London Moderate Good
S England Moderate Good
Wales Good Good
C England Moderate Good
N England Good Good
N Ireland Good Good

SO₂ London Moderate Good
S England Moderate Good
Wales Moderate Good
C England Moderate Good
N England Moderate Good
N Ireland Good Good

Outlook for Today

NO₂ London Moderate Good
S England Moderate Good
Wales Moderate Good
C England Moderate Good
N England Moderate Good
N Ireland Good Good

High Tides

AM HT PM HT

London 2.46 6.7 15.10 6.7
Liverpool 0.03 9.0 12.18 9.2
Abermouth 8.13 13.0 20.34 12.6
Hull (Albert Dock) 7.21 7.2 19.27 7.5
Greenock 1.46 3.2 13.40 3.5
Dun Loughmoe 0.23 3.7 12.39 3.0

Sun and Moon

Sun rises 7:45am
Sun sets 4:37pm

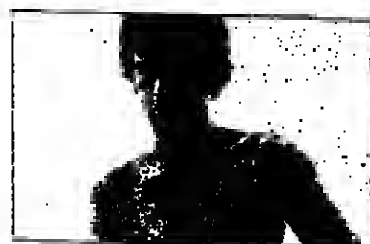
Moon rises 6:54pm
Moon sets 8:16am

New moon February 7

Looking SE at about 1.00am this week, Mars is in Virgo, with the Moon close by on the night of 27th/28th.

Over the next few weeks, Mars becomes increasingly conspicuous in the evening sky, reaching maximum brightness in March and April. For the present, it is necessary to be up fairly late to catch sight of the Red Planet. This week it rises at about 10 pm but you need to allow another couple of hours or so for it to gain height and clear the murk around the horizon. On the night of 27th/28th, the Moon rises about an hour before Mars and is positioned just above and to the right of Mars, in the constellation Virgo. Mars reveals little by way of surface markings in binoculars. A modest sized amateur telescope is really required to see any detail. The Moon, however, is always a fascinating target for binoculars. It is particularly rewarding to scan the boundary region between the dark and light parts - what astronomers call "the terminator" - where long shadows emphasize peaks and valleys. Try looking on successive nights and observe the change in appearance as the boundary between lunar day and night creeps across different surface features.

Jacqueline Milton



The big picture

Zabriskie Point
Sun 12.10am BBC2

OK - first off, this is not a very good film (except visually), not unless you still buy into the old counter-culture belief that youth is inherently moral, and that adults are per se greedy and corrupt. However, Antonioni's meeting with the radicalised America of 1970 is historically fascinating, as a student fleeing a campus (Mark Frechette) steals a private plane and flies to Death Valley (Goddard) where he meets secretary Daria Hall, who's just looking for some fun.

Television preview

Recommended viewing this weekend
by Gerard Gilbert

You can tell that theme nights have well and truly become part of the TV landscape when that most conservative of broadcasters, ITV, starts joining in. They have brought together a rag-bag of programmes under the title *A Night Down Under* (Sat 11pm) - except Scottish, which has wisely opted out - although it is theming at its most debased: a *Mad Max* movie here, an episode of *Skippy* there - a rather meaningless act of cataloguing rather than what is surely the true aim of a theme night.

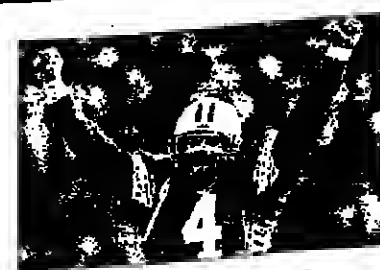
This - to broaden and deepen one's appreciation of a given subject - is delivered up by BBC2's *Country Night* (Sat), a mixture of documentaries about country music and Jools Holland's compere live acts from Nashville. Jools's emphasis is on the younger artists - Reba McEntire, Alison Krauss, BR5-49 - the new blood that's making country cool, perhaps for the very first time. His co-host, Dolly Parton, looking ravishing at 50 in an expensively refurbished sort of way - and the subject of one of the night's documentaries, *Dolly Parton - She Ain't No Dumb Blonde*, represents the older generation.

Another not-so-dumb blonde, Eva Peron, may have been many things - but an expensively preserved necrophiliac's sex toy? It's true, as the extraordinary documentary *Evita: the Unquiet Grave* (Sat C4) confirms. After her death from cancer of the womb in 1952, Peron spent \$100,000 having his wife's corpse embalmed with its internal organs intact. The mummified body was to have been the centrepiece of some monstrous mausoleum dedicated to Eva's beloved workers. This, however, never came to pass, as Peron was soon exiled to Madrid while his wife's body was in the hands of the new regime's head of intelligence - literally. He was dismissed for what his successor describes as "serious, not to say un-Christian acts against the body", and the subsequent story of what happened to this perfectly preserved relic is like some Hitchcock screenplay out of Jorge Luis Borges.

I wonder if television presenters who spend their lives interviewing celebrities have a secret yearning to be interviewed in such a way themselves. The thought occurred during *Bravo on America* (Sun ITV), in which the well-groomed *South Bank Show*

supremo ponders the relationship between Britain and America through the filter of his own experience, half the time addressing the camera, while in the other half - the personal bits - talking to an unseen interrogator. Perhaps it's a mirror. Anyhow, nothing much of startling originality in this somewhat solipsistic series, and, although not strictly covering the same ground, it suffers from coming so soon after Robert Hughes's masterful *American Visions*.

Last Chance Lottery (Sat C4) goes out live, so that I cannot reliably tell you much about its "sumptuous mixture of games, songs and comedy" - "celebrating life's losers" except that it is presented by Patrick Kielty, the young Ulster comic who was such an ill-suited frontman for one of life's losers, BBC1's *After the Break*. Fully recommended, though, is the continuing series *The Great Sell Off* (Sun BBC2), which uoatarts a hero in this week's tawdry tale of popular capitalism, British Gas's Sir Denis Rooke. Any man who can earn the description "irksom" from Nigel Lawson must have been doing something right.



The big match

Super Bowl XXXI
Sun 10.40pm C4

It's that time again when the British viewing public divides into those who will get in the tinnies and take Monday morning off work, and those who find American football and its tactical moves as baffling as a night at the kabuki. This year finds the NFL's Green Bay Packers arriving in New Orleans as hot favourites to stuff the AFL's New England Patriots, especially if the Packers' quarterback Brett Favre (above) is on song. Drew Bledsoe (who's on more than £4 million a year) is the Patriot to watch.

Saturday television and radio

BBC 1

7.05 *The Pink Panther Show* (R) (7120903).
7.25 *News and Weather* (3514309).
7.30 *Children's BBC*: *Zoom*, 7.40 *Speed Racer*.
8.05 *The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest*.
8.30 *The New Adventures of Superman* (R) (S) (2333903).
9.15 *Life and Kicking*: John Cusack, *Emmerdale's* Ian Kelsey and *Sweet Valley High* stars Cynthia and Britanny Daniel are the guests (S) (20520125).
12.12 *Weather* (7652458).
12.15 *Grandstand*: 12.20 Football Focus. 12.55 Racing from Ayr. 1.00 Stak's Casino Handicap Chase. 1.10 News. 1.15 Tennis: reaction to last night's women's singles final at the Australian Open. 1.25 Racing from Ayr: the 1.30 Client Entertainment Services EBF "National Hunt" Hurdle. 1.40 Skiing: action from this week's men's World Cup downhill at Kitzbühel. 1.55 Racing from Ayr: the 2.00 Scottish Sun Made in Scotland for Scotland Novices Chase. 2.10 Rugby Union: Leicester v Brive (Kick-off 2.30pm). Live coverage of the European Cup Final at Cardiff Arms Park. 4.05 Football: Latest Scores. 4.10 *Figure Skating: the ladies' free programme* at the European Championships in Paris. 4.45 *Final Score* (S) (2179922).
5.20 *News and Weather* (9910038). *
5.30 *Regional News and Sport* (870274).
5.35 *Tom and Jerry* (R) (671564).
5.45 *The Simpsons*: Homer turns into a virile high-flyer at work, thanks to a powerful hair-restorer and a mysterious personal assistant (S) (134458). *
6.10 *Joe South* (S) (160670).
6.55 *Noel's House Party*: TV doc Mark Porter gets a Gotcha from the prankster millionaire (952748).
7.05 *The National Lottery Live* (S) (672274).
8.05 *Casualty*: A woman learns her husband is not exactly as healthy as she thought (S14895). *
8.55 *News and Sport* (Followed by *Weather*) (538651).
9.14 *National Lottery Update* (243308).
9.15 *Dying to Love You* (Robert Iscove 1992 US). Lonely divorcee Tim Matheson meets Tracy Pollan through a personal ad, but soon realises she has a dark past. Yes, that old one (399941). *
10.45 *Match of the Day*: The Road to Wembley. Desmond Lynch introduces highlights of two of today's FA Cup fourth-round ties (S) (3017835). *
11.55 *The Frank Skinner Show* (R) (S) (297361). *
12.25 *Top of the Pops* (R) (S) (9983133). *
12.55 *Cry-Baby* (John Waters 1990 US). Trash-kissed Romeo and Juliet to a rock 'n' roll soundtrack stars a terrific Johnny Depp as a kid from the wrong side of the tracks in 1934 Baltimore falling for straight suburban blonde Amy Locane. Waters' jolly romp follows his 1968 film *Hairspray* further into the mainstream (5608423). *
2.15 *Weather* (1410249). To 2.20am.
REGIONS: *Scott*: 9.15pm *Playhouse of the Western World*. 10.05 *Sportsweek*: The Scottish Cup. 11.15 *Texas Justice*. 12.45 *Film*: *Cry Baby*. 2.05 *Weather*.

BBC 2

7.20 *Mr Drake's Duck* (Val Guest 1950 UK). A duck lays solid uranium eggs in this well-regarded but long-forgotten atom-age satire, starring Douglas Fairbanks Jr and Wilfrid Hyde-White (3557212).
8.35 *To Dorothy, a Son* (Muriel Box 1954 UK). Nightclub singer Shelley Winters learns she is due a large inheritance from her uncle, providing that her scheming ex-husband has not produced a male heir by a certain date. Comedy (1549545).
10.00 *Chanelia* (S) (9414093).
10.35 *Metwork East* (S) (6100090).
11.20 *Q Asia* (S) (5240813).
11.50 *A Week to Remember*: From 1957 (6188545).
12.00 *Film 97 with Barry Norman* (S) (6280187). *
12.35 *Mr Peabody and the Mermaid* (Living Pichel 1948 US). Holidaying William Powell meets mermaid Ann Blyth in the first of a triple bill of Powell movies (4959106).
1.45 *The Ex-Mrs Bradford* (Stephen Roberts 1936 US). William Powell again, this time as a respected doctor returning home to find a dead body in his apartment (9308728).
3.05 *Life with Father* (Michael Curtiz 1947 US). Rather stiff version of the Broadway long-runner about a New York family in the 1890s. William Powell's comic timing is off, and everyone, from the usually dependable director Curtiz downwards, seems out of kilter (40991835). *
5.00 *TOTP 2* (S) (9024670).
5.45 *Tennis*: Australian Open. Highlights of this morning's women's singles final (S) (975883).
6.45 *Bowls*: World Indoor Championships (688655).
7.40 *News and Sport* (Followed by *Weather*) (674632).
7.55 *What the Papers Say*: Michael Leppman reviews the week's press (S) (947090).
8.05 *Country Night*: See Preview, above (S) (916380).
8.06 *Dolly Parton Treasures*: The first lady of country performs some of her favourite songs and answers questions from the audience (S) (722000).
9.00 *Nashville Live with Jools Holland*: Reba McEntire, Clint Black, Ricky Skaggs and Alison Krauss are among the acts (S) (8564).
9.30 *Dolly Parton: She Ain't No Dumb Blonde*: See Preview, above (S) (72380).
10.00 *Nashville Live with Jools Holland* (S) (346651).
10.30 *Vince Gill: Souvenirs* (885380).
10.45 *Song Roads: A Musical Friendship* from Nashville to Dunkeld. Account of the blossoming relationship between American singer Kathy Mattea and Scottish songwriter Dougie MacLean (239922).
11.45 *Nashville Live with Jools Holland*: The evening's final visit to the Ryman Auditorium (S) (804274).
12.15 *Emmylou Harris*: The so-called Cajun Queen celebrates three decades in music (S) (1001423).
12.40 *Let's Go to Lushenbach, Texas*: Being the story of a Texan town hailed as the spiritual home of country music (Followed by *Weather*) (S) (4746881).
1.35 *Honky Tonk Juke Box*: Country videos (1393828).
2.50 *Tennis*: Australian Open. Live coverage of the men's singles final (71582930). To 6.00am.

ITV/London

6.00 *GMTV*. 6.00 *News*. 6.10 *Mole in the Hole*. 6.30 *Professor Bubble*. 6.50 *Bug Alert!* 7.10 *Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room*. 8.20 *Gargoyles*. 8.55 *Masked Rider* (143309).
9.25 *Scratchy and Co* (S) (68563477).
11.30 *The Chart Show* (S) (98496).
12.30 *Opening Shot*: Profile of Paloma Herrera, a 19-year-old dancer with the American Ballet Theatre in New York (89670).
1.00 *News*, *Weather* (96046125). *
1.05 *Local News*, *Weather* (96045496). *
1.10 *First Trapped on the 37th Floor* (Robert Day 1991 US). Pretty straightforward title for this pretty straightforward, latter-day disaster movie in which a Los Angeles skyscraper is engulfed in fire. Lee Majors and Lisa Hartman star (97392187).
2.55 *SeaQuest DSV* (24069922). *
4.45 *News and Results*, *Weather* (1284293). *
5.05 *Local News*, *Weather* (1189125). *
5.20 *Cleese*: Teenage fashion guru Cher makes a near-fatal blunder when she allows a superstar hairstylist loose on her locks (1532090). *
5.50 *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* (S) (159767). *
6.15 *Gladstones*: The Ashes, Great Britain v Australia with legends and silly news (S) (957090). *
7.15 *Blind Date*: Followed by National Lottery Results (S) (953274). *
8.15 *Family Fortunes* (S) (823309). *
8.45 *ITN News and National Lottery Update* (Followed by *Weather*) (543583). *
9.00 *Prime Suspect 4: The Lost Child*: A welcome chance to see this tale from the fourth series, in which Helen Mirren's gritty female detective looks into a case of child abduction (R) (S) (5583). *
11.00 *A Night Down Under*: ITV joins the theming theme with an evening of programmes with an Australian angle. See Preview, above (305467).
11.05 *Mad Max* (George Miller 1979 Aus). Influential dystopian futurism (although its influence is obviously the western), with cop Mel Gibson trying to impose a little law 'n' order on various roadster hoodlums (954545).
12.45 *McFeast on Breasts*: Australian comedian Elle McFeast holds forth on the subject of women's breasts, and so forth (6227046).
1.50 *Shark Bay*: Stars of *Neighbours* and *Home and Away* spoof themselves in this soap opera take-off (2596607).
2.20 *Home and Away* (R) (4819959).
2.45 *Crowded House Live at the Sydney Opera House* (495268).
3.45 *Skippy the Bush Kangaroo*: The 1960s marsupial superstar in a one-off yarn (63095910).
4.10 *Scrum Down*: The White Room With Ocean Colour Scene and Echoberry (S) (662220).
4.50 *The Best Specials*: Jamiroquai and acid-jazz groovers The Sandals recorded live in concert at London's Astoria Theatre in 1994 (R) (S) (6537539). To 5.50am.
5.30 *News* (60881). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.00 *Early Morning*: *Sesame Street* (R) (12670).
7.00 *Dumb and Dumber* (R) (95816).
7.30 *Dennis* (R) (7339274).
7.45 *First Edition* (R) (7334729).
8.00 *Trans World Sport* (S) (51632).
9.00 *The Morning Line* (S) (28729).
10.00 *Gazzetta Football Italia* (23485).
11.00 *Rawhide* (8686699).
11.55 *Ten Tall Men* (Willis Goldbeck 1951 US). Burt Lancaster at the peak provides the vital spark for this Technicolor Foreign Legion spoof - leading the defence of a remote desert fort against marauding tribesmen (82359380). *
1.45 *Racing from Cheltenham and Doncaster*. From Cheltenham: The 2.10 Ladbrokes Trophy Chase Handicap, the 2.45 Cleve Hurdle, the 3.20 Pillar Property Investments Chase and the 3.55 50 Years of Timeform Novices Chase. From Doncaster: the 2.25 Napoleons Racing River Don Novices Hurdle, the 3.00 Pertemps Great Yorkshire Chase and the 4.10 Doncaster Free Press Juvenile Novices Hurdle (S) (66867926).
4.35 *Pedigree Chums*: Repeat *Short Stories* film about a revolutionary new method of training guide dogs, a process that should enable the mutes to recognise more than 80 commands (R) (S) (2072449).
5.05 *Brookside Omnibus* (S) (4435564). *
6.30 *Right to Reply* (903). *
7.00 *A Week in Politics* (4090).
8.00 *Evita*: *The Unquiet Grave*. See Preview, above (1598). *
9.00 *Last Chance Lottery*. See Preview, above (S) (1354).
10.00 *Horrid*: David Marmet 1991 US). Marmet's regular leading man Joe Mantegna plays a Jewish New York City cop assigned to investigate the seemingly straightforward murder of an elderly Jewish shopkeeper - and coming up against a hinterland of American neo-Nazis and the Israeli secret service agents (S) (548748). *
11.55 *Randy Rye and the Pot Belled Perver*: Repeat profile of Darlington-based freelance crime reporter John Merry, the inspiration for the BBC's ill-fated *Michael Elphinstone* series, *Harry* (R) (S) (220699).
12.25 *T. Pizza*: Laura Kightlinger and another travel of the American airwaves, including nude yoga and a redneck cooking show (S) (5617336).
1.10 *The Giffie Show* (R) (S) (2164959).
1.45 *Ricki Lake*: An author plugs her book on marriage guidance (R) (S) (8640684). *
2.30 *Beavis and Butt-Head* (R) (S) (4293133).
2.55 *Bless This House* (R) (S) (4296220).
3.25 *Film Night* (R) (S) (6270530).
3.55 *The White Room With Ocean Colour Scene and Echoberry* (S) (662220).
4.50 *The Best Specials*: Jamiroquai and acid-jazz groovers The Sandals recorded live in concert at London's Astoria Theatre in 1994 (R) (S) (6537539). To 5.50am.

ITV/Regions

ANGLO
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Champions of the Future* (97159368). 1.40 *Cartoon Time* (31088941). 2.00 *Airwolf* (1570854). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 2.25am *Home and Away* (4901930).
CHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST YORKSHIRE
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 North East*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 NORTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 North West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH EAST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South East*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time* (98226931). 2.10 *Film*: *Squadron* (421835). 3.50 *Baywatch* (7875380). 5.10 *Channel 3 South West*: Full Time (3587403).
CHANNEL 3 SOUTH WEST
As London except: 12.30pm *Movies*, *Games and Videos* (89670). 1.10 *Airwolf* (7642831). 2.05 *Cartoon Time</*